



Community holds children safety event,
See Page 1B

56th IBCT prepares to train at Stewart-Hunter
See Page 8A

OSC, local businesses award nearly \$18,000
See Page 7A



THE FRONTLINE

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May 22, 2008



Experience the GC Scramble at Taylors Creek,
see Page 1C



Pat Young

Sgt. Dion Parson, Headquarters, Headquarters Support Company, Special Troops Battalion, is greeted by his wife Nikiki, May 16 as the STB continues its homecoming from a 15-month deployment to Iraq. See story on Page 3A.

Hammer brigade continues home

Cheryl Rodewig
Fort Benning Bayonet

More than half of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers are home from Iraq.

Among those back home are Staff Sgts. Shahied and Jamie Abdulbarr, who deployed to Iraq in March 2007. Shahied returned just days before his wife, who arrived Tuesday

night. The reunion was small, since their two daughters are staying with their grandmother in Texas through the end of the school year.

"We had a really strong Family base that helped us when it came to our children," Shahied said. "To have both spouses overseas, both of you enduring the same dangers every day ... and then to come back is a big relief for the whole Family."

See HAMMER

Page 3A

Marne Soldier, NCO of Year announced

Staff Sgt. Amber Emery
3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs

The U.S. Army is a time-honored organization rich in tradition and history. Long considered members of the best military in the world, Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division carry out these traditions and play a part in writing its history.

Two Soldiers earned their page in the 3rd Inf. Div. history book after winning the titles of 2008 Noncommissioned Officer of the Year and Soldier of the Year.

Specialist Michael Holbrook, 3rd Inf. Div. Soldier of the Year 2008 winner, said ever since he won the Soldier of the Month award, it has been his mission to progress as far as possible.

See MARNE

Page 6A

Defense Secretary urges safety

Dr. Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense

Tragically, last year during the 101 days between Memorial Day and Labor Day, 77 servicemen and women died in private motor vehicle accidents. While Memorial Day marks the beginning of summer, it also means increased traffic on our nation's roads.

Know that the choices you make at

sporting events, barbeques, and other summer activities can impair your judgment and reaction times - all of which are necessary for safe driving.

Don't put your life, or the lives of others, in danger by making poor decisions. Most vehicle accidents are the result of alcohol, fatigue, and excessive speed. Your safety, and the safety of those around you, is in your hands. Enjoy the summer and all it has to offer, but be smart and be safe.

Stewart-Hunter WTB activates Company C

Randy Murray
Public Affairs Specialist

With 591 Soldiers now assigned to Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield's Warrior Transition Battalion, a third company was activated in order to meet the needs of wounded, injured and seriously ill Soldiers. Company C was activated in a brief ceremony held at WTB headquarters, May 16.

For the formal part of the company stand-up ceremony, WTB Commander, Lt. Col. Tyra White unfurled Company C guidon after uncovering it with the help of the new unit's company commander, Maj.

Gwendolyn Moore. Afterward, both White and Moore spoke to the Soldiers and Family members attending the ceremony, noting the vital importance of their unit to the Army mission.

With the establishment of the Army Medical Action Plan in 2007, the old medical hold companies were replaced with Warrior Transition Units, which provided a unit where wounded, injured and seriously ill Soldiers could be assigned while they received the medical treatment they need to heal and the rehabilitation they need to transition back to their unit or into the civilian community.

See COMPANY

Page 8A

DES reminds returning Soldiers to take it easy

Sgt. Tanya Polk
Editor

"A Soldier is a Soldier - whether you're deployed or at home," said Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Directorate of Emergency Services Sgt. Maj. Max Brown. "There's no excuse for bad behavior."

Brown, who recently redeployed from combat himself, said that some returning troops have the tendency to combine everything they've missed during their deployment into the first week upon their arrival

home. Furthermore, these Soldiers might find themselves in trouble because they haven't allowed their bodies to readjust and reintegrate back to the norm.

The wrong actions could cause a Soldier to be punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, or even worse - it could cost a life.

Law enforcement personnel have thickened its force on Stewart-Hunter according to Brown. Rules are strictly enforced in order to keep Soldiers and their Family members safe.

See REINTEGRATION

Page 6A

Soldiers show control at Marne Safety Day



Sgt. Tanya Polk

Sgt. Deltori Thompkins (driving) and Sgt. Markus Pryor, both with 260th Quartermaster Battalion, lose control of the wheel aboard the Simulated Impaired Driving Experience, an electronically operated go-cart that illustrates what a high level of intoxication can do to a driver. See story on Page 4A.

Marne 6 Sends Remember heroes past, present with thanks

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch
3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

I start and end my day in prayer. In combat, not a lot of things go according to plan, but prayer is my non-negotiable.

Every morning I lay out the 150 cards of the Dog Face Soldiers we have lost since I became Marne 6. I study their pictures and mourn their loss. I think about the Families they left behind, and the sacrifice they made for our nation.

When I look at their images, I ask myself two questions: 1) Did we do everything we could to preclude this? 2) Is it worth it?

Our Soldiers are the best Soldiers in our nation's history. They are properly equipped, well trained, and most importantly, they are well-led. Five years into this war, our leaders are combat tested and thoroughly analyze the risks when they

place Soldiers on the battlefield. Our Soldiers have the very best equipment – there is nothing we cannot resource for our Soldiers. And, while Families hate the time Soldiers spend away from home during training, our Soldiers have the best training facilities available – both in the United States and in Kuwait, as they deploy to Iraq or Afghanistan.

You cannot put a price on the value of a life, and the death of our Soldiers creates an irreplaceable void for their Families. But in the larger picture, their tragic loss is making a difference. We are fighting terrorism here so that we do not have to fight it at home, and our Soldiers are truly having an effect on the



insurgency.

The Marne Division is making history for its third deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom – the difference the Soldiers are making is obvious. When the Division Headquarters arrived last March, attacks average 25 per day. Now they average less than two a day. Soldiers have transitioned from security operations to stability operations and are making a difference in the lives of the Iraqi people every single day. I could not be more proud or more humbled to serve alongside of them.

The loss of so many Dog Face Soldiers is heartbreaking. I have been to all 150 memorial services and spent each one crying my

eyes out. But afterwards, we put on our body armor and Soldier on. We continue to take the fight to the enemy so we do not lose more Soldiers. We do not give up any of the ground for which those 150 Soldiers gave their lives.

After 15 months in combat, I have a new definition of a hero. A hero is the Soldier who eulogizes the loss of his or her battle buddy, makes the whole chapel cry, and then dons body armor to go on another mission. Those men and women are my heroes – and I have the privilege of seeing them every day on the battlefield.

This Memorial Day weekend we remember the lives of those who made the ultimate price, but we do not forget them. We continue to fight on so their sacrifice is not made in vain.

Rock of the Marne!

Memorial Day: A salute to brothers, sisters in arms

Gen. Charles C. Campbell
FORSCOM commanding general

On Memorial Day, we pause to remember the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our nation. In doing so, we are maintaining a long honored tradition that began after our Civil War when communities came together and decorated the graves as a tribute to the Soldiers who gave the ultimate sacri-

fice. We continue to pay our respects today to service members from generations past and to those involved in the Global War on Terrorism, whose sacrifices remind us that freedom is not free.

We honor our brothers and sisters in arms for what they have done for us, for our country and for the cause of freedom around the world.

The freedom Americans enjoy today continues at a precious cost, paid not only by our Soldiers but also by

the Families they left behind. We graciously extend our gratitude and prayers to our Army Families also during this time of remembrance.

The Army is the strength of our nation, and you are the strength of the Army -- Army Strong. As we gather with Family and friends this holiday weekend, be safe at home and on the road.

Let us remember those who have gone before us to secure the liberties we enjoy today.

Moments in Marne History: Five Marne Soldiers earn MOH

Special to the Frontline

Sixty-four years ago this week, May 23 and 24 1944, five Soldiers of the 3rd Infantry Division, four privates and one sergeant, performed actions for which they were awarded the Medal of Honor. In alphabetical order they were: Sgt. Sylvester Antolak, an Ohio farm boy and son of Polish immigrants; Pfc. John Dutko, also of Polish descent, born in Pennsylvania but raised in New Jersey; Pfc. Patrick Kessler, born on St. Patrick's Day in Middletown, Ohio where he grew up; Pvt. James Mills, born and raised in Fort Meade in central Florida; and Pfc. Henry Schauer, who was born in Oklahoma but joined the service from a small town in Montana that was closer to Regina, Saskatchewan, 75 miles away, than any U.S. city. They came from all over the U.S.; they ranged in age from 21 to 27. Three were members of the 30th Infantry and two of the 15th Infantry. There was nothing unusual about any of them, except the heroism they showed over so short a time.

Their actions occurred during the breakout from the Anzio beachhead, where the division had been pinned down by German forces since the end of January. To do that the 3rd Inf. Div. had to take the town of Cisterna that sat on Highway 7, the main route to Rome from the south for over 2,000 years. For more than three months the Germans had had time lay wire and mines, sandbag positions, erect tank obstacles, and coordinate fields of fire for artillery units that knew every target and road junction in the area. Yet, thanks to these five men and their fellow 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers, the German position was broken in three days and the 3rd Inf. Div. was on its way to Rome.

The attack began on May 23. The plan was for the 30th Infantry to move around Cisterna to the left along Fosso Feminamorta (Dead Woman Ditch) to Ponte Rotto (Rotto Bridge). The 7th Infantry would assault Cisterna frontally while the 15th Infantry bypassed the town to the right, seizing Highway 7 and the railroad. The 30th Infantry came under fire first and its 3rd Battalion, to which Company A was attached, had great difficulty. After initial success, at Ponte Rocco the battalion came under intense fire from an 88mm mobile gun, three machine guns, and a large group of riflemen. After 30 minutes Pfc. John Dutko of Co. A went into action with his Browning Automatic Rifle. Taking off toward the 88 at an angle, he took out one machine gun crew with a grenade; then, ignoring the other two machine guns, he wiped out the 88 with his BAR. He then wheeled on the second machine gun and killed its crew. The third machine gun crew opened fire at him from twenty yards, wounding him, but he continued to charge them and took them out before falling dead on one of the Germans.

Company K, 3rd Battalion, also had much trouble. It had suffered about 50 casualties, including its company commander and XO, before crossing its line of departure, but by mid-afternoon it had reached Ponte Rocco. Then Pfc.

Patrick Kessler's patrol came under fire from a machine gun nest 100 yards away that killed several men. Kessler charged the nest, killing three men and taking one prisoner. He was escorting his prisoner to the rear, when two more German machine guns and some riflemen opened fire from further back, killing another dozen men. Kessler turned over his prisoner to another Soldier and went after the machine guns. Artillery and mortar fire landed almost on top of him, but he killed the gunners from both machine gun nests and took thirteen men prisoner. While returning with his prisoners, he came under sniper fire, but not only prevented his prisoners from escaping, he forced the two snipers to surrender. Kessler survived this day only to be killed two days later, May 25, the same day Cisterna fell.

The 15th Infantry had its own difficulties. Its Company B, 1st Battalion was the only company with two members awarded the MOH for actions at Cisterna. Of the two, the story of PFC Henry Schauer (later promoted to Tech Sergeant) is more unusual in that his MOH citation recounts heroism on both the 23rd and 24th. A member of the 15th Infantry's Battle Patrol, Schauer was beside a ditch on the 23rd when four snipers opened fire at the patrol's rear. Schauer walked toward them with his BAR and single handedly took out all four. As the patrol continued, two machine guns opened up. Schauer took out both of them by himself. The next day, near Highway 7 the patrol came under fire from both a tank and a machine gun. Despite the tank shells, Schauer calmly fired at this, third machine gun, until the whole crew was dead. He lived to make his home in Salem, Oregon.

Another member of Company B, Sgt. Sylvester Antolak also

performed heroically on the 24th. His patrol was moving to cut the railroad and capture high ground on the far side, when he became aware of a German strong point menacing another patrol. So he led his men on a charge over coverless terrain. Hit and knocked down twice, he still continued to charge. Knocked down a third time and his right arm shattered, he wedged his submachine gun under his left armpit and still advanced; he finally killed two gunners and took ten prisoners. Another strong point opening fire, Antolak refused to stay behind. He led his troops for 70 yards before collapsing. His men pushed forward and overran the German position. When they returned to him, Sgt. Antolak was dead.

The final MOH recipient showed the quality of even green 3rd Inf. Div. troops. Pvt. James Mills, a scout in Company E, 2nd Battalion, 15th Infantry was in only his second day of combat on May 24. So when Mills disappeared around a sharp turn in a ditch and his lieutenant heard machine gun fire and then one single shot, he went to see what happened. He found Mills covering one gunner with his rifle, having shot the other between the eyes. Mills kept on scouting. That day he also captured or shot two Germans in the act of pulling the pins from grenades; then he charged six enemy soldiers, unnerving them so they surrendered. Finally, in a series of diversions, he drew mortar fire at himself while other members of his unit worked their way up a shallow ditch to the house from which the enemy fire came. His fellow Soldiers captured 22 soldiers, three machine guns, and three heavy mortars without a casualty, thanks to Mills bravery. Mills survived the War.

These were the men of the 3rd Inf. Div. who brought great honor to their division May 23 and 24 1944.

MEDAL OF HONOR





SGT SYLVESTER ANTOLAK
1st Lt., 30th Infantry, 3rd
Division of Infantry, 3rd
Inf. Div. 1944



PFC JOHN DUTKO
Private, 30th Infantry, 3rd
Division of Infantry, 3rd
Inf. Div. 1944



PFC PATRICK KESSLER
1st Lt., 15th Infantry, 3rd
Division of Infantry, 3rd
Inf. Div. 1944



PVT JAMES MILLS
1st Lt., 15th Infantry, 3rd
Division of Infantry, 3rd
Inf. Div. 1944



PFC HENRY SCHAUER
Private, 15th Infantry, 3rd
Division of Infantry, 3rd
Inf. Div. 1944

Combat pay counts toward economic stimulus payment eligibility

Jamie Findlater

Special to American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Military personnel serving in combat zones are eligible for an economic stimulus payment, an Internal Revenue Service spokesman said during an "America Supports You Live" interview on *BlogTalkRadio.com*.

While combat pay generally is nontaxable, servicemembers are permitted to count this pay on their 2007 or 2008 income tax returns if it helps their eligibility, Clay Sanford explained.

"A military person who would not normally file a 2007 tax return because the 2007 income is not taxable, can file a 1040A with the IRS and receive the stimulus payment," he said. Servicemembers should report their nontaxable combat pay on Line 40b of the Form 1040A to show at least \$3,000 in qualifying income, he added.

Starting this month, as part of the eco-

nomics stimulus plan, the IRS will issue payments of up to \$600 to \$1,200 for married couples, plus a \$300 payment for each qualifying child younger than 17. The payments are based on 2007 income tax returns. The payments for individuals begin to phase out starting at \$75,000 in adjusted gross income for single taxpayers, and at \$150,000 for married couples.

People must have at least \$3,000 in qualifying income to get a payment. Qualifying income is defined as any combination of earned income (such as wages or taxable income from self-employment), nontaxable combat pay and certain benefits from Social Security, Veterans Affairs and Railroad Retirement.

Sanford encouraged qualifying servicemembers to submit early. While military servicemembers who are serving in a combat zone are granted an extension of 180 days after leaving combat, spouses or others with a power of attorney can prepare and file a

2007 income tax return on their behalf so that the stimulus payment is received this year. The return must be filed by Oct. 15.

Sanford offered additional tax advice to servicemembers during the interview, especially those who are just starting out and filing taxes for the first time.

"Keep receipts and copies of your tax returns," Sanford said. "It's a good idea to keep receipts for six years and the tax returns indefinitely. You are responsible for your own tax return, regardless of whether you do it yourself or rely on a tax preparer."

For help, Sanford listed a number of helpful documents that can provide clarification. By going to the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov and typing in "Publication 3," he explained, servicemembers will find a great resource for active duty people and reservists. He also recommended Publication 17 for learning more about general filing of individual income tax, and Publication 525, aimed at veterans and

those with pensions. He also noted that many military members qualify for free electronic tax filing.

"Additionally, on most military installations, the legal office is there to provide you with information," he said, and he also noted that the military is one of the IRS's leading partners in its Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, which provides on-site help to taxpayers, courtesy of volunteers in their organizations.

In today's digital age, *irs.gov* is a great resource for young servicemembers, Sanford went on to say. Sanford encouraged servicemembers to visit the site for detailed educational guides on filing, helpful tips and tools, and to learn more about the special deductions that may not be intuitive for military members.

Those without easy access to the Internet can call 1-800-TAX-1040 toll free for information and answers to any specific questions, he said.

DES Spotlight - Stewart-Hunter police: Supervise your children

Special to the Frontline

With the arrival of warmer weather and longer hours of daylight, children will be outside of their homes more often and for longer periods of times. Because of this, we would like to remind parents and guardians of Fort Stewart Regulation 210.50, dated May 1, 2004, dealing with the Care and Control of Children, to include supervision, curfew and procedures for reporting of suspected child neglect. One of the basic principles of this regulation on Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield is that sponsors are responsible for the conduct of their Family members.

Child supervision is necessary for the safety, protection, care, and management of children in our community and is the responsibility of the parents. Parents are accountable for their decisions regarding child supervision and any incidents of misconduct by children under their care. As such, parents must know where their children are and what they are doing at all times. Children will not play, roller skate, etc., in the streets. Ball games (baseball, football, etc.) will be played only on authorized ball fields or play areas.

Regarding the supervision of children during parental non-duty day, you can not:

1. Leave a child, five years of age or younger, outside the physical presence of a parent, guardian, qualified child care provider or a qualified baby-sitter at any time or place.
2. Leave a child 6 through 8 years of age, unsupervised at any time or place, except while traveling to and from school or a Youth Services facility or program.
3. Leave a child, 9 through 12 years of age, unsupervised at any time or place for more than two hours on a regular basis.

This 2-hour time period includes traveling to and from school or a Youth Services facility or program. A child in this age group should not be left unsupervised unless he or she is determined to be mature by the parent.

4. Leave a child, 13 through 14 years of age unsupervised at any time or place for more than eight hours, unless arrangements are made with a friend or relative who is an adult to check on their behavior and whereabouts in person within that 8 hour period. This eight hour period may not include any time between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m. A child in this age group should not be left unsupervised unless he or she is determined to be mature by the parent.

5. Leave a child, 15 through 17 years of age, at any time or place for more than 12 hours, unless arrangements are made with a friend or relative who is an adult to check on their behavior and whereabouts in person within that 12 hour period.

The following curfew applies to children who are physically present on Fort Stewart or Hunter Army Airfield:

1. Children 12 years of age or younger, shall be inside their home or someone else's quarters between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.; unless, they are under the supervision of an adult (18 years of age or older).
2. Children who are 13 years or more of age, but less than 15 years of age, shall be inside their home or someone else's quarters between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless they are under the supervision of an adult, or are returning home directly from a community or school-organized function or facility, a Youth Services program, traveling to or from verifiable employment, or responding to a bona fide emergency.
3. Children who are 15 years of age, but less than 18 years of

age, shall be inside their home or someone else's quarters between midnight and 6 a.m. unless they are under the supervision of an adult, or are returning home directly from a community or school-organized function or facility, a Youth Services program, traveling to or from verifiable employment, or responding to a bona fide emergency.

The child's parent(s) or guardians are responsible for compliance with this curfew. If the child is in the company of an adult other than a parent during the period of curfew, the parent must have authorized the adult in advance to supervise and be responsible for the child. This is to prevent a young adult not much older than the child from claiming that the child is under his or her supervision without the parent(s) express knowledge and approval.

Remember: Parents are accountable for their decisions regarding child supervision and any incident of misconduct by children under their care.

Violation(s) of the Care and Control of Children Policy are punishable as: For military personnel - a failure to obey a general order under Article 92, UCMJ, or other appropriate provisions of the UCMJ.

For civilians (Family member dependent): State of Georgia Criminal Code.

Additionally, violations can result in referral to the Case Review Committee and/or the Juvenile Disciplinary Control Board. A violation may result in termination of the privilege of occupying government or leased quarters and a mandate to participate in parenting classes.

Report all suspected incidents of child neglect to the Fort Stewart Police at 767-2822 or Hunter Army Airfield Police 315-6133.

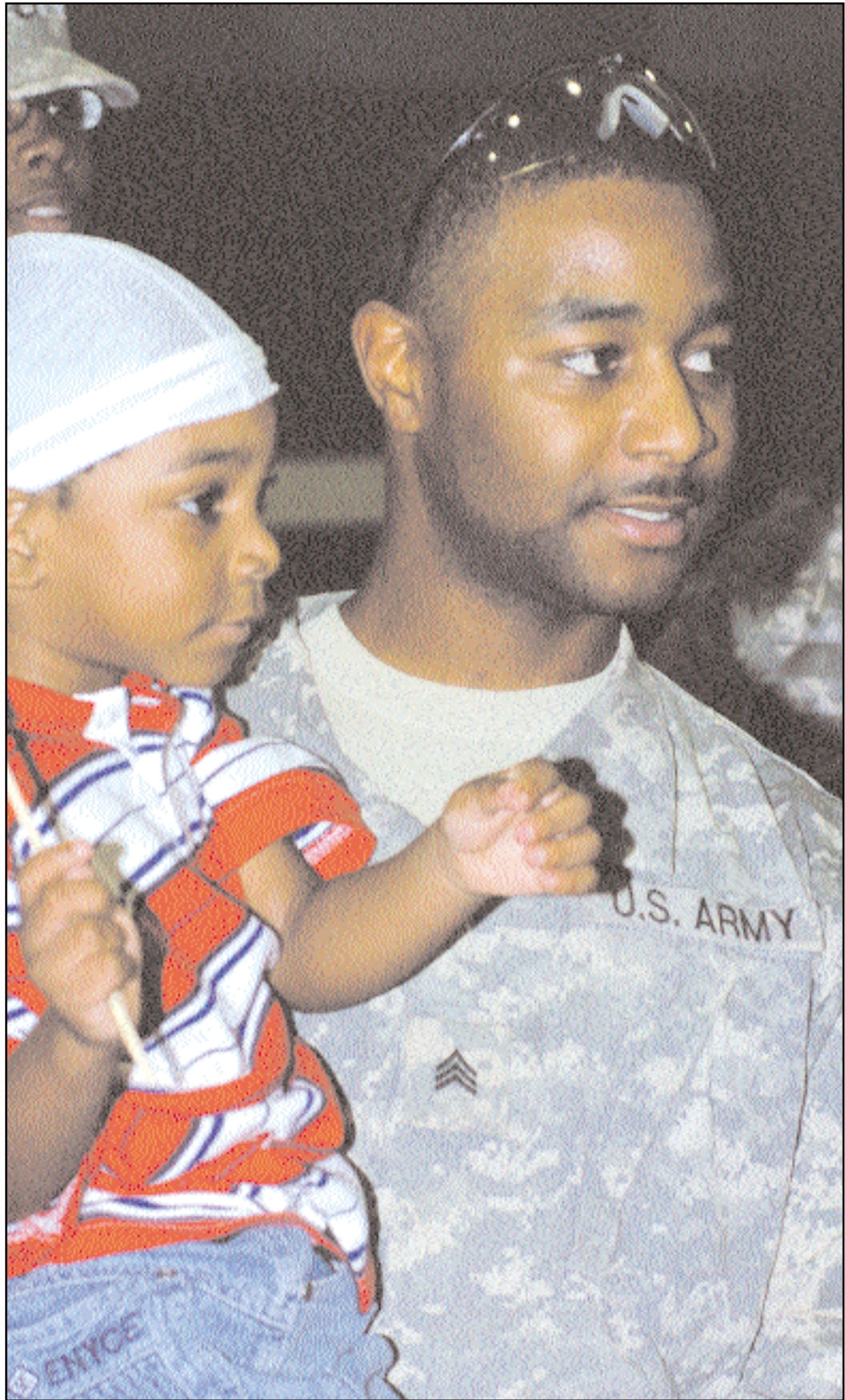
Heroes continue their homeward trek



Pat Young

The Advance Party of the Division's Special Troops Battalion returned May 16 and were greeted by hundreds of Soldiers, Family members and the Division Band.

Division Special Troops Battalion Advanced Party returns



Pat Young

Sgt. Jermaine Cooper, HHSC, STB, holds his son Jeremiah Sanderford at the return ceremony, May 16 at Newman Fitness Center.

Lance Davis
Frontline Staff

The Advanced Party for the Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, came home during an afternoon ceremony here May 16, greeted by the hundreds of cheering Soldiers, Families and music performed by the 3rd Inf. Div. Band.

More than 80 Soldiers were welcomed back by about 200 friends and Family on Cottrell Field. The Soldiers will begin the transition between the battalion's rear detachment command and the deployed command.

Lt. Col. P. Brian Gale II, 3rd Infantry Division rear detachment commander, welcomed the Marne Soldiers home, thanking them for their 14 months of service with Task Force Marne south of Baghdad.

"You and your fellow Marne Soldiers secured an area the size of West Virginia,

suppressing the violence in that region and denying extremists safe haven," Gale said. "You have also succeeded magnificently in building up the capacities of Iraq. Your names, and the names of the operations you conducted while deployed — Husky, Torch, Slam, Rugged, Pile Driver — are written large in the history of Iraq. Dog-face Soldiers, you have every right to be proud of what you have done."

Task Force Marne is under the command of Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, 3rd Infantry Division commander. The division headquarters is scheduled to begin its redeployment in late spring to early summer.

More than 80 Soldiers from the STB have already come home.

Following Gale's welcome and singing the National Anthem, the Marne song and the Army song, the Family members and friends rushed from the parade field's reviewing stands to greet their Soldiers.



Lance Davis

Sgt. 1st Class Craig Zentkovich, Headquarters, 3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs Office, is welcomed home by his sons after a 15-month deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

HAMMER

from Page 1A



Sgt. Anthony Martinez

Family members, friends and 232 3rd Heavy BCT Soldiers, returning from their 15-month deployment to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, bow their heads to give thanks in prayer for the safe return of the Soldiers during a welcome home ceremony, May 13 at Freedom Hall, part of Lawson Army Airfield on Fort Benning, Ga.

Though the couple saw each other occasionally during the deployment, Shahied said meeting Jamie at Lawson Army Airfield was "like seeing my wife for the first time."

Melinda Waller waited for her husband of 19 months, Sgt. William Waller.

"We're the only people on earth who get to fall in love with our husbands again and again," she said. "A lot has happened during the year, a lot of changing — people grow — so you just get to know that person again, fall in love again. I'm sure every spouse here has that nervous excitement in the pit of their stomach ... not very many people get to feel that."

Melinda said it's hard being away from her husband, but she's proud of his career.

"It's the price we pay for the life we live and for the privilege of loving the people who serve our country," she said. "I support him 100 percent."

Though their marriage is new, Melinda has faith in its strength.

"No time apart, no deployment, nothing can weaken what we have," she said. "I would not change one thing about our life; it's what makes us what we are. We don't look forward to deployments — they are long and hard — but I will always be here waiting, and he will always come back to me."

Support Families of fallen Soldiers

Pete Geren
Secretary of the Army

We are an extraordinary Army. Gen. George Casey and I both know that as the Army fights two wars on separate fronts; we must remain steadfast in our commitment to our Soldiers and Army Families. Just as we strengthened our programs to care for Army Families enduring the strains of war, our wounded and their Families, we must also strengthen our programs to care for those Families whose loved ones died on active duty. We owe them a debt we can never repay. Their needs are different and consequently require new strategies of support and caring.

Since February 2008, an advisory panel composed of Army agencies and surviving

spouses has worked to develop a comprehensive program to support Families of our fallen Soldiers. This program is called Survivor Outreach Services. The advisory panel has recommended important changes in how we select, train, and employ our casualty assistance officers, and recommended adding benefits advisors and financial counselors to help survivors navigate the complex array of benefits and entitlements. The advisory panel told us we must do a better job of preparing Families earlier in the deployment process, addressing estate planning issues and ensuring that families have the



long-term support they need until they are ready to move to the next phase of their life.

While Survivor Outreach Services is the Army's official means of providing support, in some of our communities, private organizations have stepped forward to help in this effort. We are grateful for their generosity and caring support. Gen. Casey and I are committed to putting this improved system in

place as soon as possible.

We must all be more supportive of surviving spouses and their children suffering the loss of their husbands and wives, sons and daughters, and mothers and fathers. To cre-

ate that level of caring, inclusion, and support, we hold ourselves--officer and enlisted, military and civilian--accountable for ensuring our surviving Family members are treated as they should be.

One way we will demonstrate that support, will be to extend the same level of priority of services to survivors that Warriors in Transition receive.

We must make it clear to all our service providers, military and civilian alike, that Warriors in Transition and survivors, have the same top priority.

Those Families whose Soldier has paid the ultimate price for our nation's freedom deserve our respect and gratitude and the very best that our great country can provide. We owe this to them, and we must deliver. I am totally committed to doing so.

Installation kicks off 101 Critical Days of Summer Safety

Sgt. Tanya Polk
Editor

Kicking off the 101 Critical Days of Summer Safety campaign, Fort Stewart hosted an installation-wide safety day for Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Soldiers and civilians, May 16.

The 101 Critical Days of Summer Safety are the days between Memorial Day and Labor Day where Soldiers and Family members are at greater risk to accidents and

mishaps.

"If you go back and look at the Army's accident trends, you'd find that the hundred days (between Memorial Day and Labor Day) are more critical than any other part of the year," said Installation Safety Director, James McCullough. "In our program, we try to emphasize awareness - make sure people are aware of what it takes to be safe during this critical time."

Setting up a carnival-type atmosphere, the safety day included hands-on demonstrations and interactive activities that emphasized summer safety. Stewart-Hunter police illustrated how three to four beers can impair an individual as Soldiers attempted to walk a straight line wearing vision impaired goggles or "beer goggles."

While the vision-impaired goggles threw troops off balance, a ride on the Simulated

Impaired Driving Experience, an electronically operated go-cart, caused Soldiers to lose control of the wheel. The SIDE illustrates what a higher level of intoxication can do to a driver.

The safety day also taught troops boating safety, swimming safety and motorcycle and privately owned vehicle safety. New to safety day, the Special Forces recruiters provided a class on hand-gun safety, and the fire department showed Soldiers how dangerous grilling too close to the house can be.

The fire department also brought along a fire-safety house, which teaches people how to get out of their home if they become trapped due to a fire.

"We tried to make it fun because that tends to be a better learning environment," McCullough said. "If it's something you

enjoy doing, and if you have a good time with it, you tend to learn a lot more."

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield recognizes safety as a top priority. Awarded the Department of the Army Composite Risk Management Safety Award for fiscal year 2007, the installation also reached another milestone as today marks 236 days accident-fatality free.

Marching toward 300 days and beyond, 101 Critical Days of Summer Safety is another way to take care of Soldiers and their Family members.

"Take care of each other," McCullough said.

"That's what it takes. It takes everybody to look after each other in order to stay safe."

For more information on safety, contact the Installation Safety Office at 767- 8132.



Left: Private Raul Robles, 473rd Quartermaster Company, attempts to walk a straight line wearing vision impaired goggles or "beer goggles" at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield's Safety Day, May 16.



Below: Firefighters with the Fort Stewart Fire Department demonstrated how dangerous grilling too close to the home can be as they put out the flames that leaped from a grill onto the wall at the installation-wide safety day on Fort Stewart, May 16.

Marne Voices Speak Out

What are some swimming safety tips?

"Don't drink pool water."

Spc. Carlton Mcpherson
346th MP Co.



"Don't swim after a big meal."

Craig Hutchinson
Charile Co. WTU



"Hold your breath."

Terry Newsone
Family Member



"Don't swim in high current."

Spc. Trey Steele
3rd DSB



"Don't go in the water if you can't swim."

Collene Walter
Civilian



"Don't swim alone."

Ivan Costas
Civilian



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IP, Coalition detain 2

Special to the Frontline
4th BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – Mussayib Iraqi police and Coalition forces detained two individuals May 6 in the Mussayib area, south of Baghdad.

“I have never felt more confident heading into a detainment operation than this,” said 1st Lt. Zachary Boes, 2nd Platoon leader, Company C, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd

Infantry Division. “We were sure that the targets were at their locations because we had informants keeping eyes on them until we got there.”

Company C and the IPs received intelligence from informants that two individuals suspected of being the cameramen during an explosively-formed projectile attack that killed a Soldier March 23 were in a house, said Boes.

“The fact that we have gained this much confidence in the people says a

lot,” Boes said. “They trust (Iraqi Security Forces) and Coalition forces, and the security situation is good enough that they feel safe calling to tell us that there are bad people in their neighborhoods. We did not know that the targets were back in the area until these informants told us.”

The mission was a success because of the local citizens, Boes said.

“If it had not been for them, it is possible these targets would still be on the streets,” he said.

Cache destruction near Karbala



Courtesy photo

A fireball rises from a pile of munitions disposed of by ISF and Coalition forces, May 3 in the Karbala province.

Fish farms: a sign of progress

1st Lt. Ted Blythe
4th BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ISKAN, Iraq – Just six months ago, the village of Khidr, approximately 50 kilometers south of Baghdad, was considered an insurgent stronghold.

Today the village’s once-displaced residents can focus on restoring their economy, to include the fish farming industry, instead of worrying about security.

Local citizens are revitalizing the fish farms with the help of microgrants, said Sgt. Scott Murray, from Wilmington, N.C., with Company B, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. The funds they receive help clean ponds, purchase fish food and maintain water pumps used to fill canals.

“When we first got here the fish ponds were dry,” Murray said. “Now water pumps are running and the ponds are full of water and fish.”

Last week, during a visit to a local pond, one fish farmer showed Sgt. Shaun Meyers, from Bronx, N.Y., how he catches fish. He handed Meyers a fishing rod made of reed and a few feet of line; within moments he reeled in a foot-long carp.



Courtesy photo

Sgt. Shaun Meyers, with Co. B, 3/7th Inf. Regt., shows off a carp he caught in a fish farm pond in the Khidr area.

“This was a great day,” Meyers said. “Many of the fish farms have been restored and are bringing economic stability to the community and its neighbors”.

Soldiers discover rocket cache

Special to the Frontline
2nd BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – Coalition forces discovered a cache of rockets, May 15 while conducting operations south of Forward Operating Base Falcon.

Soldiers from Troop C, 6th Squadron, 8th

Cavalry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, discovered the cache during a patrol. The cache consisted of 12 42 mm rockets, three 57 mm projectiles, eight rocket bodies, eight 120 mm rockets and 10 fuses of an unknown make.

The cache was destroyed in a controlled detonation by an explosive ordnance disposal team.

Ft. Stewart/Hunter Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Penny Day @ Corkan Family Recreation
23 May; 1-11pm
Stewart Lanes Bowling Center

Come celebrate Penny Day and bowl 1st game regular price and 2nd game for a penny! 3rd & subsequent games are regular price. Shoe rental is extra. Info: 767-4273.

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Youth Fitness Challenge
26 May- 20 June
Jordan Youth Gym

Youth ages 11-18 are invited to participate in a fitness challenge to win cool prizes! Pick up a checklist at Jordan Youth Gym and complete any exercise that works the ten muscle groups mentioned on the checklist. Once completed turn in your sheet to receive a FREE Jordan Gym fitness t-shirt and have your name entered in a drawing for one of the grand prizes! All checklists must be turned in by close of business on 20 June to be eligible to win the grand prizes. Info: 767-1428.

.....

Animal Crackers @ HAAF
28 May, 10am
Lotts Island

Come out and enjoy a nature based program geared towards youth ages 3-5 years. Mom's bring your kids for a morning of fun exploring the outdoors! Dress appropriately, since activities are conducted outdoors, weather permitting. Cost \$2 per child (parents no charge). Sign-up by 27 May. 767-4316

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Celebrate National Bike Day
28 May, 3:30pm
George P. Hays Library, FS

Children are invited to enjoy story time and learn about bike safety. Info: 767-2828

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Corkan Family Fun Center Grand Opening
28 May, 5:30pm
Corkan Family Fun Center, (formerly Corkan Gym)

Ribbon cutting will be held at 5:30pm followed by a tour of the newly renovated facility. Bring your children to see the state of the art laser tag room, 3-D climbing room, and concession area added to the center, plus the indoor roller skating rink. You will be amazed! For more information, call 767-9884 / 767-6708.

.....

**Beginning Weight Training &
Gym Orientation @ HAAF**
28 May, 5:30-6:30pm
Tominac Fitness Center

Weight training, cardiovascular fitness and new equipment orientation targeting those just beginning or would like to begin a fitness program. Open to active duty Military, Family members, Retirees, and DA Civilians. Register by 27 May. No charge.

315-2019

Campbell promotes good neighboring to youth

Lina Satele
Frontline Staff

‘Today’s youth are tomorrow’s future’ is a statement used most often to describe our children. But in some cases our children tend to stray in a different path than what we have intended for them.

What do we do when this happens?

Well, some parents look to places such as the Youth Challenge Academy on Fort Stewart to help guide their children back into the right direction.

“Throughout the 22 weeks that these young people are in the program, everyone from the administration to the cadre has always stressed the importance of doing the right thing,” said Roger Lotson, Deputy Director Youth Challenge Academy.

YCA cadets and cadre members on Fort Stewart all gathered at Woodruff Theater, May 14, along with some special guests who discussed various topics centered on being a good neighbor. These special guests included Sunny Parks, founder of Good Neighboring Foundation and Gen. Charles Campbell, Forces Command commander.

“Sunny Parks is a good friend of the Youth Challenge Academy; he goes around the nation to various youth academy programs educating the young people on the culture of Korea as well as his success as a millionaire to encourage the young people to do the right thing, so they too can become very successful,” said Lotson.

Lotson also stated that Parks usually invites a special guest to accompany him in his visits. This particular visit, he invited Campbell to

reiterate the point of how he came to the United States with nothing and made something of himself.

“These are the people reaching out to you. These are the people encouraging you,” Campbell said, pointing out the leaders present in the room. “Life is not always fair. Mistakes should convert into lessons and growth is a process of trial and error.”

Campbell made many points, assuring the cadets that success was in their hands, and that they were in control of their future. He also referred back to Parks and how his life became a success through hard work and dedication. He said Parks made the most from what he had.

“I came to the United States with just \$200 in my pocket, now I pay over a million dollars in taxes each year,” Parks said to the gathering.

He also enthusiastically demanded that each cadet believe that it didn’t matter what mistakes you’ve made or where you started in life, you can finish way ahead on the game pointing out that he is the evidence.

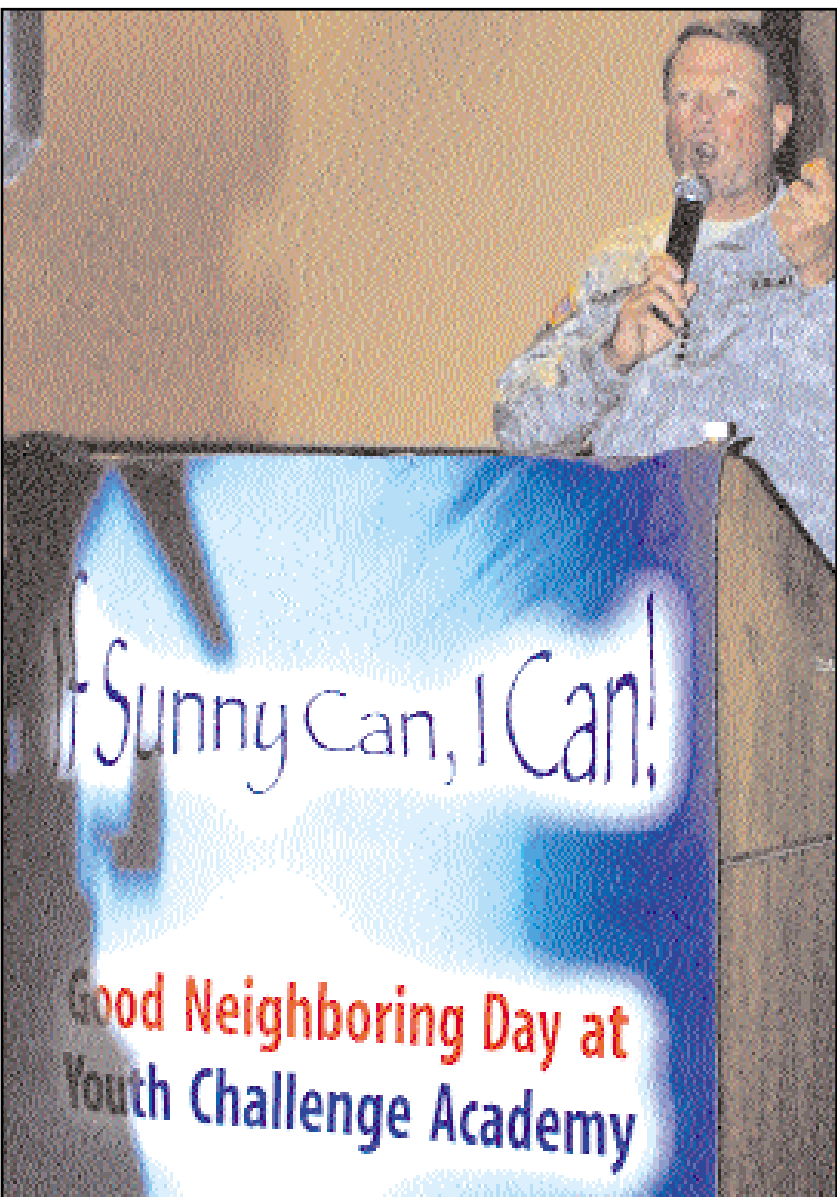
“Having this kind of event helps reemphasize the point that despite where you start, you can finish ahead; who knows, there may be a general sited in that audience,” Lotson said.



Lina Satele

Above: Cadet Cpl. Dmitri Grosby along with many members of the Youth Challenge Academy listens as FORSCOM Commander, Gen. Charles Campbell gives his profound speech to the audience during the Good Neighboring Day observance at Woodruff Theater, May 14.

Right: FORSCOM Commander, Gen. Charles Campbell told Youth Challenge cadets that with hard work and determination, success was in the student’s hands.



MARNE — from Page 1A

Holbrook is from 3rd Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

Soldier and NCO of the Year titles go to those who perform above and beyond their call to duty. Each Soldier competing in the event is required to turn in a packet, which includes a nomination worksheet signed by a brigade command sergeant major and must compete in an oral board.

“I ended up learning a lot from being with 3rd ID,” said Staff Sgt. Joshua Ridge, 3rd Inf. Div. NCO of the Year 2008, from 1st Battalion, 76th Field Artillery, 4th BCT. “I am definitely proud of the fact that I won the title of NCO of the Year.”

The competition starts at company level then advances to battalion, brigade and division competitions. Division-level winners compete in the Forces Command NCO and Soldier of the Year, which takes place July 27 through August 1.

The top Soldier and NCO in that event will then compete for at the whole Army level.

“They are considered to be the top Soldiers in the division and will represent the division on different levels,” said Staff Sgt. Ashanti Carter, executive assistant to division command sergeant major.

This competition improves the Soldiers’ morale while deployed and gives them a goal to achieve, Carter said.

“I worked for it, and I did everything I could to get to this position. The next step is the FORSCOM board, and I can’t wait to go there and perform my best,” Holbrook said.



Marne Soldier of the Year

Right: Specialist Michael Holbrook, 3/7th Cav. Regt., takes his place in the gunner’s turret awaiting an upcoming convoy, May 8.



3rd Inf. Division NCO of the Year

Left: Staff Sergeant Joshua Ridge, 1-76th FA, from Lake City, Ark., takes his place in a humvee for an upcoming convoy, May 8.

REINTEGRATION

from Page 1A

“Speed is always an issue in staying alive in a combat zone,” Brown said. “Sometimes we (Soldiers) have a tendency to bring that back with us.”

Stewart-Hunter has a new appeal system for installation traffic citations received by Soldiers on post. Under the new system, Soldiers alleged of violating traffic laws have 10 days to request an appeal. If no appeal is filed, points will be added to the Soldier’s installation driving record.

Those points will be assessed in accordance with AR 190-5, Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision. Soldiers who accumulate 12 traffic points within 12 consecutive months or 18 points in 24 consecutive months will have installation driving privileges revoked in accordance with AR 190-5, para. 5-4.

Common offenses and their point’s application are as follows:

- Reckless driving - 6 points;

- Driving while impaired - 6 points;
- Speed contests (racing) - 6 points;
- Failure to use seatbelts - 2 points;
- One to 10 mph over posted speed limit - 3 points;
- Parking in a handicap zone - 3 points;
- Parking against a yellow curb - 3 points;
- Over 10 but not more than 15 mph over posted speed limit - 4 points;
- Over 15 but not more than 20 mph over posted speed limit - 5 points;
- Over 20 mph over posted speed limit - 6 points

Soldiers may also be used to carrying a weapon in combat, but obtaining a firearm on post requires registering it first.

“You can have a weapon,” Brown said. “Our Constitution guarantees a right to keep and bear arms. However, there are some stipulations that we need to follow when it comes to having a firearm.”

Brown said that in addition to registering privately owned weapons, single Soldiers living in the barracks must have a commander’s permission to take the weapon out of the arms room. Soldiers living in government housing must also notify their chain of command.

“Please take the firearm safety course in our Safety Office here on Fort Stewart,” Brown said.

Brown said the installation’s law enforcement does not tolerate driving under the influence of alcohol.

“There are too many law enforcement officers out there on an off post,” he said. “More importantly, even if you don’t get caught by a law enforcement officer, you could lose your life. You can kill a buddy in the car with you.”

Georgia also has a strict drinking and driving policy and first offense could mean loss of a license and thousands of dollars in fines,

Brown said.

After being exposed to a violent environment in Iraq or Afghanistan, some redeploying Soldiers may unintentionally carry that violent nature back home to Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield.

“When you’re moving from a very stressful environment to a home environment, sometimes it does follow,” Brown said.

Brown said that this is no excuse, however, and the installation does not tolerate violence.

If you or someone you know is in a violent situation contact the military police. Call 911 for emergencies or to make a report you can call the Fort Stewart police at 767-4895 and the Hunter Army Airfield police at 315-1633.

“Take it slow and easy,” Brown said. “Let your body get adjusted. Remember there’s also going to be the stress of just being back. Things are different here.”

OSC, local businesses award scholarships

Pat Young
Managing Editor

The Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center was the site for the 2008 Fort Stewart Military Family Member Scholarship Awards Ceremony, May 14, where nearly \$18,000 were presented to 20 deserving high school seniors and graduate students.

Recognized for both their academic achievement and community service, the Fort Stewart Officers Spouses Club; First Command Financial Planning; Pioneer Services and the Fort Stewart Commissary were assisted by the installation's Deputy

Garrison Commander, Michael Biering.

The scholarships were for high school seniors, continuing undergraduates and graduate students.

Although not all the awardees were present, recognized were the First Command scholarship recipient, Rowillie Ross; Pioneer Services scholarship recipient, Niko Vandevoorde; and commissary scholarship winners Meghan Guarino, Erin Willis, and Brandoon Schreihofner. Schreihofner was also a recipient for the OSC scholarships, along with Benjamin Botelho, Holly Aversano, Jeanne Delgado, Patrick Farce, and Kaly Wilson.

The continuing undergraduates were Mary Pendelton, Nicolas Radunske, Maria Botelho, Jadyn Clots, Brandy Rollins, Sarah Hill and Christy Quinones.

The OSC scholarship chairperson, Misty Stephenson applauded the dedication of the award recipients, noting that there were very few present who attended the same school throughout their high school years, let alone their academic career. She also explained the recipients not only excelled academically, but also made great efforts to help the community.

"You are the true examples of what it means to be leaders in the community,"

Stephenson said.

Biering echoed Stephenson's comments.

"If you look at the qualification of these folks, its amazing," he said. He noted those being recognized worked jobs, provided services, help at schools, churches, and throughout the community, all while maintaining academic excellence.

The scholarships ranged from \$500 to \$1,500.

To learn more about additional scholarship opportunities, contact an education counselor at Fort Stewart or Hunter Army Airfield, at 767-8331 or 315-6130, respectively.



Rowillie Ross



Mehan Guarino



Jeanne Delgado



Holly Aversano



Benjamin Botelho



Brandon Schreihofner

70 youth join 3rd annual Leadership Conference

Kaytrina Curtis
Public Affairs Specialist

Hunter Army Airfield hosted 70 students from nine area high schools enrolled in the JROTC programs in Savannah and Hinesville, May 16, as they participated in the third annual Youth Leadership Conference. This is the second year the conference was hosted on Hunter. The conference was sponsored by the local Savannah Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars.

The purpose of the conference was to expose cadets to leadership and character building opportunities through

classroom lectures and outside discipline demonstrations. Cadets listened to instructors speak to them about ethics, citizenship, and responsibility. Hunter Garrison Commander, Lt. Col. Daniel Whitney and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. David Sampleton's message to the cadets was that leaders have integrity, honor and respect.

"Its selfless service, not selfish service," said Sampleton.

Some may have the misconception that the JROTC program is about preparing for military training, when in fact it is a citizenship program devoted to the moral, physical and

educational uplift of American youth. It is also the study of ethics, citizenship, communications, leadership, life skills and other subjects designed to prepare young men and woman to take their place in adult society.

Retired Army Col. Jerry Hipp, MOWW chairman of the Youth Leadership Conference, stated the appreciation he feels for the garrison command's cooperation in the conference.

Hipp wanted the students to take the exposure of the military and its surroundings back with them to help build on leadership opportunities, and he wants to provide these

opportunities in the future.

"We intend to have these one-day conferences once a year," he said. "We want to provide these opportunities in the future."

Cadets were able to feast on meals ready to eat during their lunch hour, before moving on to the afternoon's physical education portion of the conference. Outside on a grassy knoll, Soldiers treated the cadets to various exercise moves. Victoria Tacy, a Johnson High School sophomore said she enjoyed the conference.

"I think it will prepare me to be a leader," said Tacy. "I found it to be very informative."



Kaytrina Curtis

Seventy JROTC students from nine high schools in the Savannah-Hinesville area participate in physical training as part of the Youth Leadership Conference held at Hunter, May 16.

Greyhounds plan for arrival to Stewart

Maj. Valerie Meadows
188th Infantry Brigade

Do you know what goes into getting a mobilization site ready to train a unit to fight a war? I didn't. As a line officer in the 'old days', you showed up with your unit in the right uniform, with all your issued equipment, piled on buses and went to a training site, trained as much as you could cram into 24 hours a day for 7-14 days, then piled on buses and left, back to your garrison to wait for your deployment flight. I never really thought about what went on at the training site to prepare my unit for their mission. Not any more.

As the 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team "Greyhounds," Texas National Guard, prepares to deploy to Iraq, they start over six months out identifying training, manning, and equipment requirements. Prior to mobilization, they will complete almost all of their individual training and medical readiness preparation. By the time they get to the mobilization training station, they will have less than three months before they fly overseas.

The difference between then and now is that they have input into every facet of their training, from where they will be eating and sleeping to individual training classes to their final readiness test. The 56th IBCT has been included in every bit of the planning for their deployment in order to customize it to their very unique needs as a deploying unit. When they depart Ft Stewart this winter, they will be as ready as their fellow Soldiers from the 188th and Fort Stewart can help them be.

From April 22 - 24, the 56th IBCT and members of the Texas Army National Guard staff were at Stewart to help plan their mobilization and deployment training support. Personnel from the offices of the Texas State Army Surgeon, Mobilization Assistance Team, 36th Infantry

Division and the 56 IBCT came to Stewart to discuss maneuver, sustainment, and logistic operations.

The 188th Infantry Brigade and Stewart were ready for their arrival. A training overview briefing was followed by tours of the training areas, ranges, and Ft. Stewart garrison facilities, then individual meetings with the 188th and Stewart staff personnel for each of the major support areas.

Contracts, construction, repairs, tents, dining facilities, training camps and bases, ranges, meetings, rehearsals, and more meetings and rehearsals fill up the six months prior to the mobilizing unit's arrival. Water, sewage, laundry, communications and networking, transportation, medical support, road closures, range schedules, trainers, and observers all need to be planned out to the last detail prior to the unit's arrival. There are almost 3400 deploying Soldiers arriving at Stewart in less than 100 days.

Let's look at range preparation. When the previous mobilizing unit departed Stewart, all of the mock villages were torn down or the rental contract on the buildings cancelled so that the ranges would be available for the 3rd Infantry Division stationed at Stewart to conduct their recovery training when they return from Iraq this summer. New villages have to be put together. We need junk cars and trash piles to aid realistic training. These are not found on Ft. Stewart. Sad to say, we have to litter up the ranges to simulate the urban conditions the Soldiers will face in Iraq. Luckily, junk is easy to come by and even as we build piles of debris obstacles, we already have a cleanup plan in place. The day the 56th signs off of the ranges, 188th and Stewart will already be cleaning up the ranges.

Why Ft. Stewart? 3rd Infantry Division has an outstanding training set up already in place. But it is geared to active duty Soldiers who train year round and already have over six years of combat experience in Iraq alone, not

mobilized National Guard and Reservists whose training is limited to a certain number of days per year by law. Although many of these Soldiers have already deployed to Iraq for this mission at least once, some several times, others have not. However limited their convoy security experience may be, the National Guard and Reserve Soldiers bring an enormous wealth of civilian experience with them that translates to the civil reconstruction mission very well. They have police, firefighters, teachers, medical transportation, farmers, business, logistics, construction and other vital social support jobs that are so desperately needed to help rebuild Iraq's economy.

And every single one of these Soldiers is a volunteer – someone who willingly gives their nights and weekends to their state and country. They are the ones standing in the pouring rain filling sandbags when the rivers overflow. They are the ones digging out trapped motorists during massive snow storms and clearing roads, handing out food, water, and shelter to tornado and hurricane victims. These volunteers are hard workers, used to working in emergencies with limited resources.

While they undergo their individual training in weapons, language, and mission, the 188th Infantry and Stewart will be preparing their theater training based on the latest information gathered from the returning Soldiers from 3rd Infantry Division and the other units still deployed to Iraq. Their days here at Stewart are planned almost to the minute with all the requirements that they must verify before deploying. They will show up at their unit, in the correct uniform, with all of their equipment that they are taking to Iraq, pile on their transportation and come to \Stewart. But now they know every facet of their training and have prepared for it and their deployment as thoroughly as possible so that they can deploy and return home as safely and effectively as possible.

DOIM employee named top COMSEC custodian for 2008



Courtesy photo

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Communication Security Manager, James VanderZyl, Directorate of Information Management is presented the CONUS COMSEC Custodian for 2007 award May 6 by Jack Dempsey, Director Communications Security Logistics Activity, during the Global INFOSEC Partnership Conference ceremony held at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

Vanderzyl received zero deficiencies in a recent audit and inspection by CSLA. He personally manages over 300 COMSEC items and 15 hand receipt holders. He additionally provides guidance and assistance to other account holders. During the recent deployment of the 3rd Infantry Division, he provided exceptional support to both divisional and tenant units, by absorbing the assets of 28 additional deployed account holders.

COMPANY —————from Page 1A

Many Soldiers assigned the WTB are pending medical evaluation boards though others are there so they can receive optimal, long-term care. Sgt. Larry Woods and Spc. Neco Padgett are both assigned to Company C but for different purposes.

Padgett, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist from San Diego, Calif., was deployed to Iraq when she developed a stress fracture in her foot. When the injury would not heal after six months physical therapy, she was returned to Fort Stewart and assigned to the WTB in October 2007.

"The terrain there was so rough, my foot wouldn't heal," she said, explaining doctors now believe she has more serious issues with both feet that may require a job change.

Explaining that WTB Soldiers are not allowed to sit around idle, Padgett said she is currently taking four college courses with Central Texas College at Sgt. 1st Class Paul Smith Education Center, learning a possible new career in paralegal.

"When I was in Iraq, I had a chance to talk with several female Soldiers about their job specialties," Padgett said. "I thought the paralegal specialist's job sounded interesting, and now that I need to try to stay off my feet, I'm working toward a career change."

Woods, a petroleum supply specialist from Huntsville, Ala., has been in the Army for over 7 years, having spent all that time stationed here at Fort Stewart but deployed to combat zones. While serving his third combat tour in Iraq, he sustained

a traumatic brain injury from an improvised explosive devise, May 19, 2007. In July, he was sent to the TBI clinic at Fort Bragg, NC then in October to Stewart-Hunter's WTB. His case is currently going before a medical evaluation board. He suffers from concussion syndrome, severe migraines and light sensitivity. In fact, he has to wear dark sunglasses, even indoors.

"Every TBI is different," Woods explained. "There's no set course for doctors to follow to treat this sort of injury. There are a lot of things I can't do anymore – play video games or just watch TV – but I try not to think about it."

Not thinking about things that bother him seems characteristic of this Soldier. He prefers not to say a lot about his experiences from a tour in Kosovo and three tours in Iraq, except that he feels haunted by the Soldiers and friends he's lost.

"I was only 19 the first time I deployed," Woods said, staring ahead, his eyes hidden behind the dark glasses. "Some of the things I saw – it messes with you. It took me six months just to be able to talk to my wife about it, and we've been together since the 8th grade. I'd rather not have a story to tell."

Woods added that his wife, Marquita, is supportive of both his physical injuries and the emotional scars he said he'll carry the rest of his life. They have a daughter, A-Mya, 3. He said he doesn't know what decision to expect from his MEB, but if he's medically discharged or retired, he has no intention of doing nothing. He said he will stay busy.



Randy Murray

Maj. Gwendolyn Moore stands proud in front of her newly-activated unit, Company C, Warrior Transition Battalion, May 16.

JACKS – A single knowledge center for the CBRN community

Special to the Frontline

The Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense equipment plays a vital role in the Department of Defense's mission to defend our nation and Warfighters against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats.

Through the procurement of CBRN detection, analytical and protective equipment and training, this mission is accomplished. To facilitate distribution of current and relevant CBRN equipment information, a powerful tool has been created.

The JPEO-CBD Director for Knowledge Management, Brenda Besore and Lead for Web-Based Systems, Patricia Estep, established the Joint Acquisition Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Knowledge System, also known as JACKS, in support of DoD's mission. JACKS is a Web-based knowledge management system that provides information for the CBRN defense community, regardless of the agency, equipment manager or data owner. The Edgewood Chemical Biological Center Information and Technology Solutions Team at Rock Island Arsenal, Ill., developed and maintains JACKS.

The DOD employs a large number of CBRN-supporting Web sites, systems and databases, typically aligned with an organization or office. A key characteristic of JACKS is that it accesses these multiple DoD databases and systems, pulling CBRN-oriented information into one, focused resource to support the CBRN community. This is commonly referred to as a data federation.

JACKS Overarching Concept

JACKS is a key repository of CBRN-oriented data sets. For example, it serves as an information source to such systems as the CBRN Research Development Acquisition Detector database effort between Australia, Canada, United Kingdom, and United States. These modules provide users clear, accurate and maintained sources of CBRN information in one easy to navigate system.

Unlike many unofficial systems that do not receive the maintenance and updating necessary to be reliable, JACKS uses official System of Record data sources. For example, the

Federal Logistics Information System is accessed weekly to update information on more than 100,000 National Stock Numbers. The DoD Demilitarization Program database is the source for demilitarization code "F" instructions that JACKS uses.

JACKS' CBRN Shelf Life Information System is an example of both a CBRN data repository and an official system of record. This JACKS system hosts and displays CBRN Shelf Life expiration, extension and condemnation information by NSN and lot number, as well as other required surveillance information. CBRN Shelf Life extending and condemning actions are the responsibility of the technical expert engineering agencies that have the authority to make such decisions.

An archive of CBRN-oriented advisory messages is maintained within JACKS. Multiple Maintenance, Logistical, Supply, Safety of Use and other advisory messages are included in the archive, regardless of the agency or command that originated the message. If a message is CBRN-oriented and targeted to the DoD community, it will be archived into JACKS.

The Joint Equipment Assessment Program utilizes JACKS to provide current and accurate shelf life information and updates. This close relationship between JEAP and JACKS ensures essential information is available and accessible. Several agencies provide background database connections and data feeds to maintain current data updates directly into JACKS. Regardless of the agency that is responsible for data, it is available in JACKS for Warfighters and other consumers to use at their discretion.

The information within JACKS is unclassified, but considered sensitive. While JACKS provides anyone who can access the site with 24/7 Chemical-Biological Defense support, major parts of the system are accessible only to DoD personnel with a Public Key Infrastructure digital identity certificate or an Army Knowledge Online or Defense Knowledge Online account. Support for multiple levels of permissions is a useful tool many users of JACKS utilize.

Complete access control exists within the system, allowing the user to grant access to entire areas or just certain sections. This function permits the exchange of information while also maintaining permission control. This is usually

associated with a Common Access Card or AKO account. JACKS is accessible to more than 90 percent of DoD's military and civilian personnel worldwide.

Various functions within JACKS are access-controlled; and are managed via permissions based upon the specific function and the user's need to know.

For example, customers attempting to go to the CBRN Shelf Life update area log into the same JACKS Web site that all users access. Since certain personnel are identified as members of the technical community and have been given additional permissions with their CAC PKI certificate, they have access to additional links and options in JACKS that provide access to the Shelf Life update forms.

The capabilities and functions of JACKS are expanding based on user feedback and CBRN community information requirements. It is an evolutionary system that is constantly being improved to meet the demands of the CBRN community.

Points-of-contact for recommendations, suggestions and questions can be accessed on JACKS. Widely available and a highly valuable CBRN information resource, JACKS adds value to the warfighter and the CBRN community.

As the system continues to develop and evolve, even more data marts or doorways of information will be shared with warfighters and the CBRN community. JACKS has been developed under an ISO 9001-2000 certified quality management system that promotes, facilitates and enables consistency and continual improvements.

JACKS can be accessed by going to jacks.jpeocbd.osd.mil. Users are encouraged to submit suggestions for improvement. The JPEO-CBD goals of focusing less on organizational structure and more on supporting the CBRN defense community and warfighters continue to be the primary focus of JACKS. By providing portals to the vast amounts of critical information, JACKS brings the CBRN community closer together.

For more information on JACKS or inquiries regarding information technology support, contact the Knowledge Management Division of JPEO-CBD. Commercial: (703) 681-9600, DSN: 761-9600, webmaster@jpeocbd.osd.mil, or the CBRN Information Resource Center at (800) 831-4408 or cbn@conus.army.mil.



Staff Sgt. Steve Shepard, 1/64th Armor, carefully folds the ACU name cloth covering the granite monument honoring Sgt. William Allmon, one of 10 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers memorialized at a tree dedication ceremony at Warriors' Walk, May 15.

10 fallen Soldiers honored at Warrior's Walk

Randy Murray
Public Affairs Specialist

Ten Eastern Redbud trees were dedicated at Warrior's Walk, May 15, honoring the sacrifice of 10 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers and 10 American Families, bringing the number of fallen heroes memorialized with a living monument to 408.

In a formal ceremony attended by Family members, friends and fellow Soldiers, each of the 10 Soldiers was remembered as a Soldier, son, brother, husband and/or father.

"I am humbled to speak of 10 great people, 10 fine Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice," said Garrison Commander, Col. Todd Buchs. "Warrior's Walk honors their courage with enduring love."

Pfc. Tyler Smith, 22, from Bethel, Maine, was an avid outdoorsman from his childhood. Assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, he was the gunner for his platoon leader's vehicle when his base received enemy indirect fire. Smith died March 21 in Baghdad.

Four Soldiers assigned to the 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team died March 24 when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device on March 23.

Cpl. Joe A. Rubiohernandez, 24, was one of those Soldiers. His Family moved to the U.S. from Mexico when he was four. Rubiohernandez joined the Army as a supply specialist but chose to become a gunner and driver for a Bradley Fighting Vehicle.

Staff Sgt. Christopher Hake, 26, from Enid, Okla., was assigned to the Army's Old Guard on September 11, 2001 and was one of the first to participate in recovery operations after the attack on the Pentagon. Shortly thereafter, he served his first combat tour in Iraq.

Pfc. Andrew Habsieger, 22, from Festus, Mo., was a tough football player when he was in high school, a ruggedness that served him well as an infantryman. Having grown up enjoying his grandfather's military stories, he looked forward to serving his nation.

Pfc. George Delgado, 21, from Palmdale, Calif., was an infantryman and Bradley Fighting Vehicle driver with an unforgettable sense of humor. He will be remembered not only for his skill as a Soldier but for his laughter and for the laughter he gave others.

Sgt. Charles Jankowski, 24, from Panama City, Fla., loved being outside – fishing, driving his pickup or grilling. In fact, he had a local reputation for his outdoor

cooking skills. His older sister, Felicia Kirkland, remembers him as someone who "lived outdoors" and loved to make people laugh. Though they had their sibling squabbles while growing up, she fondly remembers the "caring, sweet person" his friends called "Ski."

"He loved being outside," Kirkland said of her brother. "He was planning to get out the Army next year and go to work for Florida 'Fish and Wildlife.'"

Assigned to 3rd Brigade Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Jankowski died March 28 in Arab Jabour from wounds caused by an IED.

Sgt. Jevon Jordan, 32, was a high school football star from Norfolk, Va. who continued playing football when he joined the Army. During the 2007 Marne Bowl, he led his team, the Charging Bulls, to victory.

Assigned to 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, he died March 29 in Landstuhl, Germany from wounds caused by an IED six days earlier in Abu Jassim.

Sgt. Dayne Dhanoolal, 27, from Trinidad, was a competent noncommissioned officer who drove the Husky, a vehicle designed to find and withstand the blast of IEDs. The six-year veteran assigned to 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, died in Baghdad from wounds caused by an IED, March 31.

Staff Sgt. Jeffery Hartley, 25, from Hempstead, Texas, an Army Ranger, had already deployed to combat three times with the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment before he was assigned to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team.

He had seven years active military service at the time of his death, April 8, in Kharguliah, Iraq from wounds caused by an IED.

Sgt. William Allmon, 25, from Ardmore, Okla., was an outdoorsman who loved spending time playing catch or just enjoying nature with his two sons. A combat engineer, he was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team at the time of his death, April 12 in Baghdad, as a result of IED explosion. Allmon was posthumously promoted.

"Young and old, Soldier and civilian alike will walk these paths," Buchs said, referring to Warrior's Walk. "They will pause and read their names and reflect on the sacrifice they made for freedom."

At the conclusion of Buchs' remarks, 3rd Inf. Div. Rear Detachment Command Sgt. Major McArthur Dixon narrated the tree dedication ceremony in which each of the 10 honored Soldiers' granite monument was unveiled by a 3rd Inf. Div. Soldier.



Photos by Randy Murray

3rd Inf. Div. Color Guard stands at attention in honor of the 10 Soldiers for whom 10 Eastern Redbud trees were planted as living monuments to their sacrifice for the War on Terrorism. From left to right: Pfc. Kenneth Roberts, Sgt. Reinaldo Lopez, Spc. Eric Irwin, Pfc. Edwin Allen, Sgt. Joseph Farkasdi and (behind formation) Sgt. Jason Cramer, NCOIC.

DES: Help your community, report crime

Special to the Frontline

Have you ever seen someone hit another person, and you just walked away, or you were not sure of what to do?

Have you ever noticed a person near your neighbor's house who you have not seen before but then told yourself, "Its ok, they must be a friend" and did nothing about it?

Have you seen someone taking pictures of gates or buildings? Or taking notes around post then justified it as a person who works on post, and did nothing?

Have you ever had one of your children tell you that one of his friends broke a window in a neighbor's house then told your child not worry about it or just ignored them and did not report it?

All the above incidents have happened here on post or in your neighborhood off post. Most of the time someone has witnessed the crime and did nothing about it.

Remember, you could be that victim. The longer it takes for the police to be notified, the less likely it will be that the police can solve the crime.

So, what can you do as a citizen to help your neighbor?

You can and should get to know

your neighbors, and know what is normal and what is not normal on your street and in your neighborhood.

If you notice something that does not look right, or you see a crime happening, stop what you are doing, call the police immediately and report it.

There are a number of things you can do to assist the reporting process.

- Ensure that you are out of harms way.
- Call 911 and state in a clear and calm voice what the emergency is.
- Stay on the phone until told to hang up.
- Follow all instructions given to you by the 911 operator.
- Tell the operator what you see, give a good description of the individuals involved (height, weight, race, age, type and color of clothes he or she is wearing, etc.).
- If a vehicle is involved, give a description (license plate number, color, type of vehicle, year).
- Tell the operator the location by using address or street names.
- If the person leaves the scene then try to give direction of travel and method of travel (by vehicle, on foot, etc.).
- Do not confront any individual involved; call the police. Let the law enforcement officer handle all con-

frontations.

Be aware that crimes in progress have a higher priority of response by police officer than crimes that have happened in the past.

Remember that a delay in calling the police for even a couple of minutes can greatly reduce the law enforcement effectiveness to quickly solve the crime.

If the police can apprehend a suspect (especially for vandalism, or house break-ins) then it may be possible to solve other crimes that may have happened in your neighborhood, making your neighborhood a safer place to live.

Criminals don't want to be caught, and if they think someone will call and report them, they will look for a place where they will not get caught.

If everyone who lives on your street will watch out for each other, there will be many people looking out for criminal activity rather than a few police officers on each shift.

Remember, get to know your neighbors, know what is normal and what is not normal.

Report any suspicious activity as soon as possible. By becoming good neighbors, you will make your street and your neighborhood a safer and better place to live.

Visit a Joint Service Onestop Kiosk

Visit one of the kiosks located around Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield.

You'll find ICE comment cards at your fingertips. We welcome your feedback.

While you're there, save time by handling other personal business via Joint Services OneStop - Your direct link to online services, forms and thousands of DoD web pages with vital information for work and play.

You can access a variety of sites from a single console, including Army Knowledge Online; myPay; on-post services; health and wellness, housing and lodging; Family support and much more.

Locations include AAFES, commissaries, education centers, and other locations on Stewart and Hunter.



Legal Notice

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Spc. Ronald Harrison**, 4th Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 1st Lt. Aubrie Pfeiffer, HQ 4 BCT, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314, at 912-767-4876.

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Spc. Mary Jane Jaenichen**, Co. E 2-3 BTB, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 2nd Lt. Christine Pearl, 2-3 BTB, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314, at 269-330-3631.

Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of **Sgt. Adam S. Daniel**, Warrior Transition Battalion, Co. B., Wach, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 2nd Lt. Tyson Evans, Warrior Transition Battalion, S-4, Wach, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314, at 912-980-8829.

\$3,000 REWARD

(0318-07-CID093-11068)

A reward of \$3,000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for an assault upon two Soldiers at Rocky's Night Club, Fort Stewart, which occurred on the evening of Oct. 20, 2007.

Anyone having knowledge of the incident but not wishing to be identified will be briefed on available options in maintaining their confidentiality.

Those with information concerning this matter are encouraged to call the U.S. Army CID office located at Fort Stewart, Ga. at 767-4411.

For more information, call Special Agent Kim, or the Military Police Desk, Fort Stewart, Ga., 767-5030.

REWARD OFFER EXPIRES Oct. 27, 2008

Fort Stewart /Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

Army Birthday Ball slated
The 2008 U.S. Army Birthday Ball will celebrate America's Army, The Strength of The Nation and our 233 years of service. This year's U.S. Army Birthday Ball will be held at the Washington D.C. Convention Center, June 14. Visit the AKO Army Birthday Ball registration page for more information.

Military Family Life Consultants available
Free and confidential counseling is now available in your community. The assistance is every Friday, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Ludowici at the Long County Senior Center, 15 Thornton Drive; 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. each Friday in Pembroke at the Pembroke Senior Center, 24 W. Bacon Street; 1 to 3 p.m. each Thursday in Glennville at the Glennville Welcome Center, 136 S. Main Street; 1 to 2 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. each Monday in Richmond Hill at the Richmond Hill Public Library, Highway 144; and in Hinesville by appointment. For appointment information, call Military and Family Life Consultants at 230-8425.

Stewart
Red Cross summer program kicks off
The American Red Cross Summer Youth Program will begin June 5 and end July 21. The program is open to youth 14 to 17 years old who are interested in providing volunteer service to the community through the hospital and other Fort Stewart agencies. Applications can be picked up at the Red Cross Office in the Audie Murphy Soldier Support Center, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., weekdays. Call 767-5086, for more information.

Special Forces briefings held
Briefings are held noon, 2 and 5 p.m., every Wednesday at Special Forces recruiting office, building 160, Garry Owen St. or at Hunter Army Airfield every Tuesday, noon and 1 p.m. at the Hunter Education center, room 25. Physical Training tests are given 7 a.m. every Friday at

Donavan Parade Field. Uniform is Army Combat Uniform and running shoes. For more information, call 767-1400.

Join civilian employee fitness program
The civilian fitness program runs now through Aug. 8. The times are Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Stewart and Hunter between 3 and 4 p.m. at Newman and Tominac fitness centers. Increase your energy level and improve your health. Open to DOD civilians only. Go to www.stewartmwr.com/sports/civfit.htm. Registration deadline is May 12. For more information, call 767-9336 or 315 2019.

Hunter
PWOC classes, meetings slated
Classes are available for children, ages three and older, including adult Bible study and RCIA classes, 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. every Sunday in the Religious Education building. Call Pam Perez at 315-5440 for more information. Protestant Women of the Chapel meets every Thursday, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Call Valarie Moore at 920-8519 for information.

Locate a Soldier through AKO
The DHR, Official Mail and Distribution Center, no longer provides Post Locator Service to customers. This Service was discontinued back in 2003, to locate a Soldier, use AKO White Pages, or you must write to: Commander, U.S. Army Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center; ATTN: Locator; 8899 East 56th Street; Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN 46249-5301; 1-866-771-6357.

Locator service is free to immediate Family members and government officials. Others must pay \$3.50. The check or money order must be made out to the U.S. Treasury and is not refundable. Be sure to include all information as possible about the Soldier.

Kick-Off the Summer party scheduled
Come start your summer off right with Balfour Beatty Communities. Beat the heat in the spray park with water guns, water balloons and more. Papa John's Pizza will be co-sponsoring the event. So, you know what that means, pizza for everyone! The event is 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 5 at the Southern Oaks Community Center.

Attend a house clearing seminar
Moving out soon and have some questions? Come to this information forum to get all the information you need on how to make clearing housing as quick and easy as possible. The event is 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. June 9 at the Southern Oaks Community Center.

Father's Day craft activity slated
Let dad know how special he is 3 to 4 p.m., June 12 at Southern Oaks Community Center by making him a Father's Day card and craft to show you care.

Take Landscaping 101
Want to learn some tips on how to make your yard a show piece in your neighborhood? A professional landscaping contractor will be there to share his expertise on simple ways to enhance your yard 3 to 4 p.m. June 18 at Southern Oaks Community Center. Participants will have the opportunity to enter a raffle drawing for some beautiful plants to help get them started!

Hunter
Enjoy movie night
Join Balfour Beatty for a fun Family night with a good movie, popcorn and drinks! For your viewing

Vacation Bible School to start
Sign up today for Vacation Bible School, June 23-27, 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Call Pam Perez, 315-5440, for information.

260th hurricane briefing slated
Hunter Operations will present a hurricane brief to FRG members of 260th Quartermaster Battalion at 5 p.m., May 29, at the Post Theater. Child care is provided for registered CYS children only; call 315-7907 to reserve your child's spot.

Hunter changes gate hours
The Directorate of Emergency Services announced Hunter gate hours change, to include Rio Gate going to 24-hour operation, Wilson Gate from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Montgomery Gate remains open 24-hours.

Storage space available
Outdoor Recreation has storage space available for boats, RVs and trailers. For more information call 315-9554.

Hunter Outdoor Pool Opens
The pool will be open May 24 - Sep 1, 11:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m., Sunday - Saturday. Call 315-5617 for information.

Hunter Water Spray Park opens
The park will open Saturday; 11:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday - Friday; noon to 8 p.m., Saturday, Sunday, and holidays. Call 315-5786 for information.

Register for golf championship
Sign up now for the championship, scheduled June 7-8, 7:30 a.m. at Hunter Golf Club. Divisions are ladies, open and senior divisions. Cost is \$60 for club members; \$70 for active duty and retired military (non-members); \$80 for civilian guests. Entry fee includes tournament and golf car fee, prizes and lunch.

pleasure from 6 to 8 p.m., tomorrow at The Balfour Beatty Leasing Office (New Gannam), "High School Musical 2" will be our featured film. It has a G rating.

Neighborhood Huddles slated
Be an active part of your community by attending your huddle and sharing ideas, issues or concerns with Balfour Beatty Communities. Help make your neighborhood a great place to live. The huddles are scheduled June 3 for Wilson Acres; June 10 for New Gannam; June 13 for New Savannah; and June 20 for New Callaway. The huddles are 10:30 to 11 a.m. Locations are the leasing office for the Wilson Acres and New Gannam, and New Savannah / New Call Community Center.

Attend a House clearing seminar
Moving out soon and have some questions? Come to this information forum 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., June 6 at the BBC leasing office, to get all the information you need on how to make clearing housing as quick and easy as possible.

Father's Day craft activity scheduled
Let dad know how special he is by making him a Father's Day card and craft to show you care, 4 to 5 p.m., June 10 at the New Savannah / New Callaway Community Center.

Summer party scheduled
Come start your summer off right with Balfour Beatty Communities. Beat the heat in the spray park with water guns, water balloons and more! Papa John's Pizza will be co-sponsoring the event with pizza for everyone! The event will be 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 17 at the BBC leasing office.

Yard of the Month contest slated

Make your house a home by taking pride in your yard. We will be selecting four winners who have excelled in keeping their yards neat and have made them stand out among the rest. Winners will receive a \$25 American Express Gift Check. So, get out your rakes and shovels and make sure you water your flowers! And if you don't win this month, there's always next month! The June winners will be selected and notified by June 19 and 20 respectively for Stewart and Hunter.

Stewart

Join huddles

Be an active part of your community by attending your huddle and sharing ideas, issues or concerns with Balfour Beatty Communities. Help make your neighborhood a great place to live. The dates are June 2 for Marne Terrace; June 4 for Marne Homes; June 11 for Marne Woods; June 16 for Bryan Village North; and June 18 for Bryan Village South. The time for each huddle is 10:30 to 11 a.m. The locations are at the playground at intersection of Victory Division and Mindoro Loop for Marne Terrace; the playground on corner of Davis St. and Hero Rd. for Marne Homes; the playground between St. Tropez and Fedala (Marne Woods; the playground across from Brittin Elementary for Bryan Village North; and the playground across from Brittin Elementary for Bryan Village South.

Education Matters



Upcoming college term dates announced

Enrollment will be starting soon for on-post and distance learning classes. Please contact the college directly for course schedules and enrollment information.

Central Texas College, June 2 to July 25, 767-2070 at Fort Stewart or 315-4090 at Hunter Army Airfield.

Columbia College, June 2 to July 26, 767-5336 at Stewart or 352-8635 at Hunter.

Embry Riddle, May 26 to July 27, 767-3930 at Stewart or 352-5252 at Hunter.

Savannah Tech, July 7 to Sept. 19, 408-2430.

Webster University, June 2 to July 31, 767-5357 at Stewart or 354-0033 at Hunter.

Veterans' Education Scholarship announced

The Fund for Veterans' Education will provide scholarships to help meet the cost associated with higher education for veterans from all branches of the United States Armed Forces who served in Afghanistan or Iraq since September 11, 2001 and who are now enrolled in college or vocational-technical school. Applicants should be enrolled on a full-time or part-time basis in an undergraduate program of study at any accredited two-year or four-year institution, public or private, including technical schools for the Fall 2008 term. Scholarship recipients are selected primarily on the basis of financial need. In addition, length of military service (number of months and number of tours served) will be considered. For the application and full details, go to www.veteransfund.org. Applications must be postmarked by June 15.

College classes for Warriors offered

The Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith and Hunter Army Airfield education centers are supporting our Warriors in Transition by offering accelerated daytime college courses. The classes are being presented by Central Texas College and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. Additional types of courses may be added in future terms as long as interest prevails. To enroll, Warriors must sign up through the GoArmyEd portal online. Additional enrollment steps are required for ERAU. See your Soldier and Family Assistance Center education counselor, Bruce White, 767-3328 in building 12719, 777 East 10th Street-north, Fort Stewart or Fay Ward, education center counselor located in building 1290 at Hunter. Their hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. You may also contact the counselors in building 100 at Stewart, 767-8331 for assistance.

Math and reading tutoring available

Savannah Technical College at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center is offering free "walk-in" tutoring for college students. Math support is available Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to noon and 2 to 5 p.m. English tutoring is conducted from 4:45 to 6 p.m. and 8:10 to 9 p.m. You do not have to be enrolled in Savannah Tech to participate. No appointment or pre-registration is necessary. If you need additional information, call 408-2430.

Graduation ceremony scheduled

Have you completed your college degree in 2007 or 2008? College graduates are invited to participate in the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield "All College Commencement," 7 p.m., July 24. It will be held at the Main Post Chapel, Fort Stewart, building 500. The graduation brochure will list all graduates or soon to be graduates if they are within six semester hours of completing requirements.

To have your name listed, we must hear from you! We request that any military, Family members, retirees, and civilian-/contract employees attending on-post schools. Savannah Technical, Webster University, etc, should contact their college right away.

For those attending off-post schools, please complete the electronic "candidate for graduation" form on the www.stew-art.army.mil/Web site under the services, education link. Your submission will also allow us to list who will actually walk

down the aisle in front of their Family and friends. Forms are also available at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center.

Green-to-Gold briefing slated

The Green-to-Gold briefings are held at the installation education centers every month. On Stewart the briefings are 2 p.m., the first and third Thursday of each month. The Hunter briefings are 2 p.m., the second and fourth Thursday.

\$4,500 tuition available for Soldiers

All active duty members have \$4,500 per fiscal year for education. This entitlement is separate from the Montgomery GI Bill benefits available from the Veteran's Administration. Details are available at 1:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, during a one-hour briefing at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center, room 223.

Troops-, Spouse-to-Teachers briefings slated

The Georgia Troops-to-Teachers Program provides federal funding to qualified servicemembers of up to \$10,000 for becoming public school teachers. Under the Spouse-to-Teachers Program, eligible military spouses may be reimbursed for the cost of state required certification tests up to a total of \$600. Future meetings are scheduled for 11 a.m., June 25, July 23 and Aug. 20 at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center. For more information, visit online at www.tttga.net and www.sttga.net or call 1-800-745-0709.

Apply for the Georgia HOPE grant

The HOPE Grant is money given by the state of Georgia to students with financial needs to attend vocational/trade schools. The grant covers certificate and diploma programs. Any Soldier or Family member of a Soldier who is stationed in Georgia may be eligible. If you are interested in attending a Georgia vocational or trade school, inquire with your school's financial advisor or visit the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center to speak with a counselor.

Take CLEP and DANTES exams

College Level Examination Program and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests are available on post. Call Columbia College at 877-3406 for more information and testing dates. The exams are free for military personnel. CLEP tests are \$85 and DSSTs are \$90 for non-military examinees.

Take GED enrichment courses

Graduation Equivalence Diploma and adult education classes are offered in partnership with the Liberty County Adult Education Program at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center. The courses prepare you to take the GED exam or refresh your skills. The courses are free of charge. You can select from one of a number of dates and times, which are 9 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday; or 6 to 9 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday in rooms 225 - 228.

For more information, call 368-7322. To register for the classes, you must be present for both days of the process. First come, first serve. Call 368-7322 for complete details.

Free ESL classes offered

English as a Second Language courses are offered in conjunction with Savannah Technical College at the Sgt 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center.

Registration is every Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. in room 227. Beginning courses are taught Monday and Wednesday, 8 to 10 a.m. Intermediate courses are offered Monday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to noon. Call 368-7322, for more information.

Educate while you wait

Get your certificate or diploma and pursue your new career

using the Georgia HOPE grant (www.gsfc.org). Certificates for Website Technician, Child Care Manager, Medical Transcription, are a few of the eligible programs offered by Savannah Technical College, Airport Road in Hinesville. Of special interest to Family members may be the recently introduced Technical Communication Specialist certificate, which enables much of the curriculum to transfer to area colleges. Many required courses for these degrees are also available at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center. For more information go to www.savannahtech.edu or call 408-2430 at Stewart and the Liberty Campus at 408-3024.

New college degree programs announced

Both Central Texas College and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University are introducing new degree opportunities. CTC's Associate of Arts degree in teaching includes the education courses typically offered in the first two years of an education degree.

Choices are available for early childhood up to high school concentrations. The big bonus is that science lab classes will be held right in the education center at Fort Stewart. Information can be found at www.ctcd.edu/catalogs/2008_2009_CI/aa_as_degrees.pdf or www.ctcd.edu/catalogs/2008_2009_CI/deg_cert_req.pdf.

CTC's science degree in homeland security and emergency management will prepare students for decision making and to implement and coordinate resources necessary for preparedness, response and recovery from disasters. Information can be found at www.ctcd.edu/catalogs/2008_2009_CI/progs_of_study.pdf - scroll to "homeland security". For more information call 876-4045, at Stewart or 315-4090 at Hunter.

ERAU's Associate of Arts degree in aircraft maintenance lets aircraft mechanics build on the skills and background they possess. This curriculum assists in preparing for the FAA's airframe and powerplant maintenance certificate exam. Information can be found at www.erau.edu/ec/academicorgs/eccoce/aircraft.html.

The Master of Science in management candidates can choose from one of five areas of specializations to include aviation, logistics or general management.

More information is available at www.erau.edu/ec/academicorgs/eccoce/msm.html. If interested, call 315-4090 at Hunter or 876-4045 at Stewart.

Free college course offered

Columbia College Spouse's Opportunity Scholarship provides spouses of military personnel a tuition waiver for an initial classroom course with Columbia College at both the Stewart and Hunter education center sites.

The active duty spouse does not have to take classes with Columbia College. This is a value of \$450, which is the cost of Columbia's three-credit hour classroom course. Call 877-3406 at Stewart or 352-8635 at Hunter for more information.

Computer resources available

The Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center's learning center has 55 computers with Internet access available.

The center is open seven days a week in room 230, building 100. The hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday - Thursday; 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday; and noon to 6 p.m., Sunday. The Hunter learning center is open 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday; and noon to 6 p.m., Sunday. For more information, call 315-6130.

CES makes training available

The Civilian Education System provides the Army Civilian Corps self-development and institutional training (leader development) opportunities to develop leadership attributes through distance learning and resident training. If you are unfamiliar with CES, this link will take you to Army Management Staff College site for CES, or learn more online at www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil/ces.



Looking for employment?

Opportunities for permanent employment are available in non-appropriated funds - Morale, Welfare, and Recreation jobs at Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. The following are positions with frequent vacancies. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis.

Child and Youth Program Assistant (entry skill, and target levels), \$10.39 to \$12.73 per hour

Recreation Aid - \$5.85 - \$7 per hour

Operations Assistant - \$5.85 to \$8 per hour

Cook - \$8.70 per hour

Hotel Desk Clerk - \$7 to \$7.50 per hour

Cashier - \$8 per hour

Custodial Worker - \$7.72 per hour

Waiter/Waitress (Trainee) - \$7.17 to \$8.17 per hour

Food Service Worker - \$7.17 per hour

Bartender - \$8.70 per hour

Laborer - \$7.72 per hour

To search for these positions go to cpol.army.mil, click on Employment, click on Search for Jobs at the bottom of the page under Search-Announcement

type in SCNAFDW% then click on "Get Announcement" or hit the enter key. This will narrow your search to the Fort Stewart/Hunter NAF vacancies. Instructions on how to apply are on each announcement. For federal employment opportunities, go to www.usajobs.opm.gov.

For further information on employment opportunities, contact the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Job Information Center at 767-5051. Our office is located on the 2nd floor (room 2013A) of building 253, Soldier Support Center, 55 Pony Soldier Avenue. The hours of operations are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Additional NAF vacancies

Recreation Assistant (lifeguard), \$9.75 - \$10.25 per hour (Must possess nationally recognized lifeguard, CPR, and first aid certifications); duty locations include Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield. The closing date is Aug. 29.

Laborer, \$8.17 per hour, Hunter Army Airfield, Closing Date: 2 June 2008

Customer Services Relations Assistant, \$8 per hour, Fort Stewart. The closing date is Aug. 29.

Did you know?

- You don't have to be a U.S. Citizen to be employed by NAF

- Hiring preference for eligible military spouses can be used multiple times for "flexible" status positions.

You do not lose eligibility until you are placed in a regular full or part-time position (NAF or Appropriated Funds).

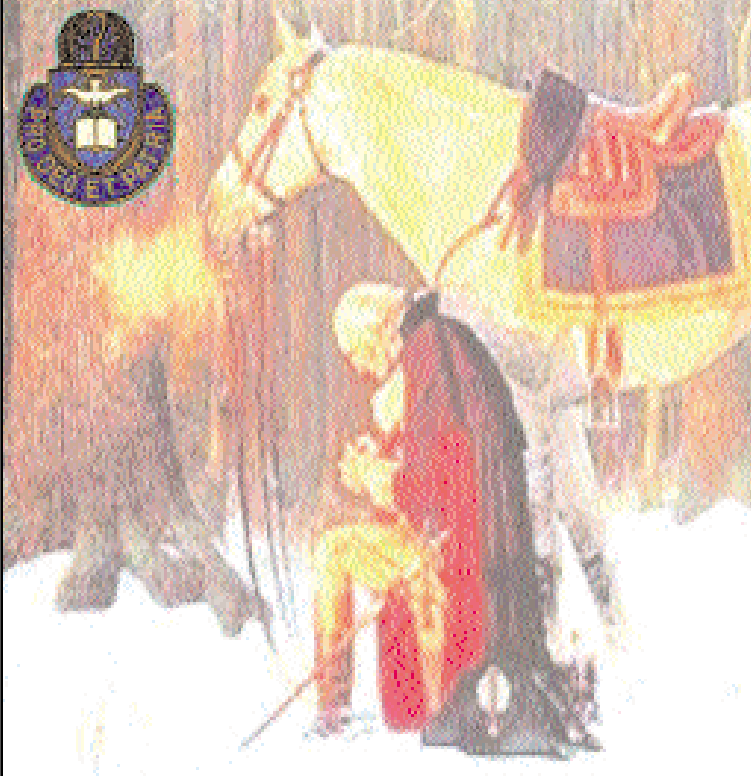
- There is a hiring preference in NAF for involuntarily separated military members and their eligible Family members.

- Current NAF employees who have worked one continuous year in a position without time limits are eligible to be considered for Civil Service (GS/WG) jobs the same as APF employees who transfer to Army.

- Youth at least 16 years of age can be employed year round in certain NAF positions where conditions and duties meet all criteria of Federal and state child labor laws.

- NAF offers a Management Trainee Program that is targeted to annually hire up to 20 recent college graduates who have bachelor's degrees in certain MWR specialties.

Applications are accepted on a continuing basis and will be used to fill Management Trainee Program vacancies as necessary. Go to www.armymwr.biz and click on Programs for more information.



Spiritual Luncheon slated

Community members are invited to the 3rd Infantry Division Spiritual Fitness Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., July 3 at Club Stewart.

The guest speaker is University of Georgia head football coach, Mark Richt. For more information, call 767- 4418.

Iron Brigade takes command at FOB Hammer

Spc. Justin Snyder
2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div., Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – Authority in the Mada'in Qada area of Iraq transferred from the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, May 15.

“Like the Hammer Brigade, the Iron Brigade will be at your side to continue to support and assist you,” said 2nd BCT commander, Col. Pat White, to Iraqis in attendance. “We are honored to be a part of your history.”

The ceremony began with the playing of both the United States and Iraqi national anthems. Following the anthems, Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, commanding general of Multi-National Division – Center, addressed the crowd, which included 2nd BCT Soldiers, 3rd HBCT Soldiers and many local Iraqi leaders and citizens.

Lynch, a native of Hamilton, Ohio, began by thanking everyone for coming out and supporting the Hammer and Iron Brigades. He told the crowd that his Soldiers could not have been successful alone and that the partnerships they developed with the Iraqi army and national police were a large part of their success.

“Everyone did this together, including the courageous people of the Mada'in Qada,” Lynch said. “We are excited about what the future holds for you as Col. Pat White and the [Iron] Brigade Combat Team takes command. They will take things to the next level in the Mada'in Qada.”

He then introduced Col. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., 3rd HBCT commander, and congratulated him on a job well done.

“Wayne, you did an outstanding job and your Soldiers were lucky to have served with you,” Lynch said. “Nothing was too great for you to accomplish, and you accomplished it all. The people of the Mada'in Qada will miss you greatly.”

Grigsby, a native of Prince George's County, Md., took the microphone and thanked the Iraqis for accepting him and his Soldiers as their neighbors.

When the Hammer Soldiers arrived in the Mada'in Qada 15 months ago, the region was strangled by Shia and Sunni extremist influences. The markets were vacant, women and children could not walk safely in the streets and irrigation canals were dry, leaving the area sparse of drinking water.

The Hammer Soldiers went to work alongside the IA, NP and Sons of Iraq, providing security, which led to the detain-ing of more than 500 suspected criminals, 47 of them being high-value targets. This allowed them to help revitalize mar-kets, build schools and improve water distribution facilities, once again returning glory to the people of the Mada'in Qada.

On this celebratory day, Grigsby said he was proud to be a part of the rebuilding, and it was because of the bold citizens of Iraq that they were able to come so far.

“All things have changed in the Mada'in Qada and we have transformed,” Grigsby said. “In our time here, the bold citi-zens have stepped forward. Because of you, the Mada'in Qada is a better place for future generations.”

Grigsby promised more improvements would come as the Iron Brigade took over command in the qada.

“The Sledgehammer Brigade is leaving, but the mission



Spc. Justin Snyder
Colonel Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., commander of 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., and Command Sgt. Maj. James Pearson, of 3rd HBCT, case their unit's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at FOB Hammer, May 15.

will continue on,” Grigsby said. “Col. White and the great Iron Brigade will take on this task and continue to make the Mada'in Qada even better than it stands today.”

Grigsby left the podium and cased the colors of the 3rd HBCT, signifying the brigade's mission completed, turning over command to the 2nd BCT.

White, from Apple Valley, Calif., followed by uncasing the Iron Brigade's colors, signifying the transfer of authority as official. The Iron Brigade stands strong and ready to perform full spectrum operations in the Mada'in Qada.

White thanked the 3rd HBCT for a great transition and said that there is nothing more important than what the Army is doing in Iraq. He said the Iron Brigade would continue to support and assist the people of Iraq, but it would

involve their help.

“As the transition moves forward, there remains one constant, to free citizens in this Mada'in Qada,” White said. “It is up to you to provide the leadership, security and economic growth required to improve this Mada'in one day at a time.”

Lynch believes this transition holds much larger meaning than just a change of command, one that will stay with the Iraqi people forever.

“We are doing this for our children and your children,” Lynch said. “We are truly building a new Iraq together.”

The 2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div., from Baumholder, Germany, has been deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom since April in the Mada'in Qada in southeastern Baghdad Province.

Casing the Colors, Hammer Brigade heads home



Spc. Justin Snyder
Lieutenant Colonel John Kolasheski, 3/1st Cav. Regt. commander, cases his unit's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at COP Cashe May 12.



Spc. Justin Snyder
Lieutenant Colonel Jack Marr, from Minneapolis, 1/15th Inf. Regt. commander, prepares to case his unit's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony, giving command to 2-6th Inf. Regt. at COP Carver May 11

1/10 Field Artillery hands reigns to 4/27

Spc. Justin Snyder
2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – Soldiers held a ceremony May 13, transferring authority in the Narhwan area of Iraq, from the 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery, to the 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery, at Combat Outpost Salie.

The ceremony began with the playing of both the United States and Iraqi national anthems. Following the anthems, Col. Wayne W. Grigsby Jr., commander of the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, addressed the crowd, which included 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division Soldiers, 3rd HBCT Soldiers and local Iraqi leaders and citizens.

Grigsby, a native of Prince George's County, Md., began by welcoming the distinguished guests. He thanked the local Iraqi people for coming to the ceremony and for their support of the 1/10th FA over the course of its deployment. He congratulated residents for improvements they have made in the Narhwan area and reassured them good things would not stop once the 1/10th FA left.

“We believe these improvements are only the beginning,” Grisby said. “The Sons of Iraq and the Iron Brigade are here to assist you in taking this to the next level.”

Grigsby then turned the microphone over to Lt. Col. Mark Sullivan, 1/10th FA commander. Sullivan congratulated the people of Narhwan for taking control of their city and told them this was their accomplishment and not his. He asked for them to work alongside the 4/27th FA as they take command.

“Together we created a situation where hope and progress has been restored,” said Sullivan, a native of Huntsville, Ala. “As Lieutenant Colonel Mammay and his Soldiers take over our duties, I ask for your continued cooperation in maintaining a secure environment where progress can continue.”

Following his speech, Sullivan cased the 1/10th FA colors and turned things over to Lt. Col. Mike Mammay, 4/27th FA commander. Before addressing the crowd, Mammay, a native of Merrimack, N.H., uncased the 4-27th FA colors, making the transfer of authority official.

“I don't see this transition as a change, but as a contribution,” Mammay said to the crowd. “They have built the foundation that we will continue to build on.”

Mammay concluded his speech by presenting Sullivan with a plaque and thanking him and his Soldiers for their support during the transition period.

The ceremony concluded with the playing of the 3rd Infantry Division Song, the 1st Armored Division Song, and the Army Song.

The 4-27th FA falls under the command of 2nd BCT, 1st Armd. Div., from Baumholder, Germany, which is replacing the 3rd HBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., in the Mada'in Qada in southeastern Baghdad Province.

Soldiers send special Happy Birthday wishes



Spc. Amanda McBride
4th BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – For one young man's 24th birthday, this year's celebration will be very hard to top.

Jason Overfield, a 24-year-old autistic man from Port Orchard, Wash., is a devoted military supporter who makes sure certain Soldiers receive special birthday cards from him every month. Over the last five years, Overfield has sent around 100 to 200 birthday cards and letters monthly to Soldiers.

Staff Sergeant Kristy Smith, the supply noncommissioned officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, began corresponding with Overfield more than two months ago through the AdoptaPlatoon program and kept contact on a daily basis.

The AdoptaPlatoon Soldier Support Effort is a nonprofit organization that provides deployed U.S. servicemembers with letters, cards and care packages from communities and volunteers.

"(Jason and his mom) had my name, so they sent me a card and an e-mail," said Smith, a native of Laurel, Miss.

Throughout the last few months, Smith corresponded with Overfield and his mother about the day-to-day happenings in their lives.

"I let them know the things

that are going on here," Smith said. "Jason tells me things that are going on in his video games and the stuff he does to help his mom out ... Everything they are e-mailing to me is just like I am Family. They are just keeping me up-to-date with everything that is going on."

Smith said corresponding with them boosts her morale every single day.

"It helps the time go by because I know that every morning when I come in, I'm going to have an e-mail from them," Smith said. "It's good to know that there are people out there that think about you."

After she found out that Overfield would be celebrating his birthday soon, Smith knew she had to do something special for him, something like he'd never experienced before.

Working with other Soldiers from her company, Smith went around to every single office to get Soldiers to sign a flag and make personal birthday video comments for Overfield.

"This is just something special to do for someone who has done so much for others," Smith said.

"Really, all of it is (memorable) because it's the way that they correspond with me; the way they talk to me," Smith said.

"It really makes me feel like I am part of their Family. I'm deployed over here but it feels like I have known them forever."

Spc. Amanda McBride

Staff Sgt. Kristy Smith, supply NCO for HHC, 4th BCT, and Soldiers from the brigade's personnel security detail hold a signed 3rd Inf. Div. flag and a U.S. flag for Jason Overfield, May 15 on FOB Kalsu.

3/7 Inf Soldiers teach Iraqis American football

1st Lt. Chris Blom
4th BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ISKAN, Iraq – Coalition forces had some special gifts to hand out during their patrol May 10 in the Hay al-Askeri neighborhood of Jurf As Sahkr, approximately 55 kilometers south of Baghdad.

Soldiers of 1st Platoon, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, collected several soccer balls, basketballs and footballs donated from Mission Sergeant Soper and distributed them out to Iraqi children.

Mission Sergeant Soper is an organization based out of Jackson, Mich., created by family members and friends of Staff Sgt. Jason Barr, of Company A.

Their mission is to collect donated school supplies, toys and clothes, ship them to Soldiers who can distribute them to Iraqi children.

Barr has been working with Mission Sergeant Soper since he was back in the States to send much needed support to kids in Jurf, said Capt. Eric Tisland, Company A commander.

During this patrol, local children

received a firsthand lesson in American football from the 1st Platoon Soldiers, who visited a local soccer field, where more than 50 children were playing with an old, half-deflated soccer ball.

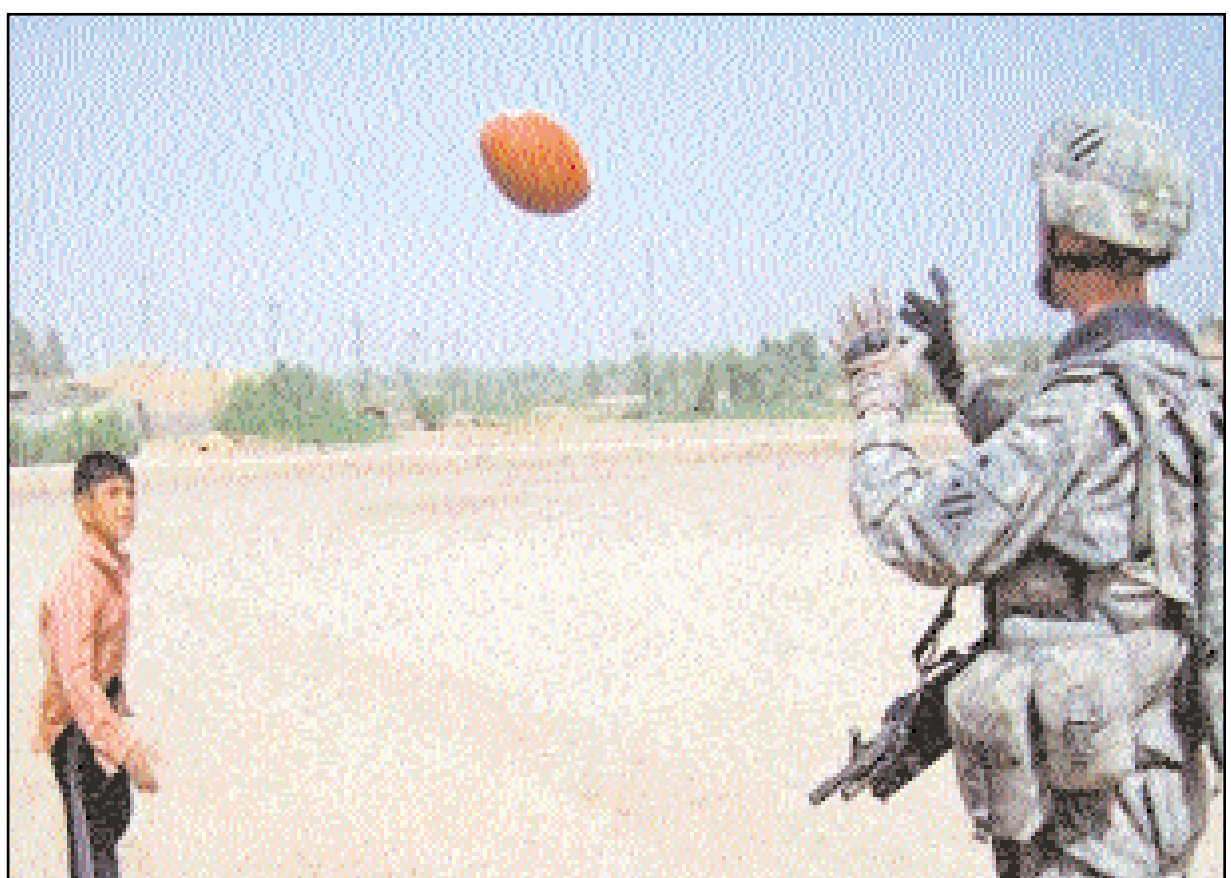
After setting up local security, Soldiers gathered the children and began inflating and handing out the new sports balls. None of the children knew how to use or throw a football.

"Staff Sergeant Barr and his Soldiers turned the distro into a pretty successful event by teaching them how to throw a real football, and then got the kids spun up to play a game for them," Tisland said.

Sergeant Timothy Louvier, from Calinville, Ill., and Spc. Steve Stillman, from Philadelphia, took time to explain the sport and give children hands-on instruction on how to catch and throw the football. After learning, the children played catch.

Later, Sgt. Cedric Alexander, from Atlanta, asked the children if they would play a soccer game for them. Soldiers cheered them on as they played.

"The parents even came out to join in with watching the game and even started cheering them on," Tisland said.



1st Lt. Chris Blom

Specialist Steve Stillman, from Philadelphia, plays catch with an Iraqi child, May 10 in the Hay al-Askeri neighborhood of Jurf as Sahkr.

Soldiers distribute donated school supplies to Iraqi children



Courtesy photo

Private First Class James Vaughn, a native of Sacramento, Calif., hands out school supplies to students at the al-Qunaitirah Primary School in Jundil.

1st Lt. Chris Blom
4th BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ISKAN, Iraq – Coalition forces and Iraqi army soldiers distributed school supplies to students and faculty May 14 at the al-Qunaitirah Primary School in Jundil, approximately 55 kilometers south of Baghdad.

Soldiers from 1st Platoon, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, handed out pens and pencils, paper, erasers, art supplies, pencil sharpeners, folders, soccer balls, rulers, notebooks, book bags and other supplies.

The supplies were split into two categories, with some going directly to the students and others going to the teaching staff. Each student received basic supplies such as paper, pencils, pens, erasers, folders and rulers.

Each of the teachers received enough school supplies to support their classes until the summer break.

The top eight students with the

best grades received new soccer balls, which were given to them by the school headmaster.

"Not only did today's drop help the kids and the school to improve the learning experience with the supplies they received, but it also highlights the Soldiers' drive to help these folks out in any way they can," said Capt. Eric Tisland, Company A commander.

The Soldiers were able to collect all the school supplies with support from family, friends and businesses back in the U.S. who have started an organization called "Mission Sergeant Soper."

The mission was to contact and collect school supplies from local people, businesses and schools in the United States. Once the supplies are collected they are sent to Soldiers in Iraq to distribute to schools and children.

"All the citizens in the area understand the importance of a good education, and it's exciting to see the Soldiers coordinating with people back in the States to help the kids out with some basic supplies," Tisland said.

Clearing agents talk customs

Pfc. Monica K. Smith
3rd CAB Public Affairs

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq – As Task Force Marne units redeploy to Georgia, clearing agents ensure Soldiers know which items they can and cannot bring back to the United States.

Sergeant Donte Jones, who works in supply and logistics for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, says customs serves to restrict items that may harm the agriculture and economy of the United States.

“Why would you want to take something back that would harm us?” Jones said. “Diseases may occur and ... spread over the United States.”

As Soldiers pack up their belongings, they want to avoid packing things that can't be taken with them.

“One of the most common problems is powdered substances,” said Master Sgt. Terence Conners, member of HHC, 3rd CAB, and senior customs brigade clearing agent. “No powdered substance if the seal is broken.”

Typical powders include foot powders and powdered protein drinks. Other rules include only one type of pill per container and it must

include the person's name and a valid expiration date. Also, no more than one piece of faux merchandise, such as watches, movies or purses, can be packed.

“If you have five Rolexes and (they're) all the same type and color, you can't take it,” Conners said. “You can't take sand with you because of what it might carry in it.”

Conners said the hardest part of customs checks is waiting on a unit not prepared for an inspection.

“Just make sure all your stuff is laid out and ready to go,” he said. “It will make the process faster. If there's a question, don't wait until the (the day of the inspection) to ask. Each unit has a (customs border clearing agent).”

Soldiers seeking specific details on customs can ask their supply and logistics office for their customs border clearing agent.

Soldiers who decide to mail personal items home should know the post office has different rules regarding what can and cannot be shipped.

Common questions include shipping of military equipment. Packages can weigh up to 70 pounds; however, bullets, magazines, lighters, gas masks and knives longer than 6-inches (with the exception of ceremonial and decorative swords) are prohibited



Sgt. 1st Class Steve Opet

Sergeant First Class Darryl Reynolds, HHC, 3rd CAB, goes through his belongings during a customs inspection on items from the CAB, April 24 at Camp Striker, Baghdad.

Falcon Brigade flight hours exceed 100,000

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills
3rd CAB Public Affairs

CAMP STRIKER, Iraq — The 3rd Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division surpassed a remarkable milestone, May 13 while deployed in Baghdad, having flown more than 100,000 flight hours in less than 12 months of combat.

The 3rd CAB reached this milestone while in support of Multi-National Division – Center and, most recently, providing attack helicopter support to Multi-National Division – Baghdad.

With unmanned aerial systems assigned to the 3rd CAB as intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance assets for MND-C, the total flight hours for airframes surpassed 120,000 flight hours.

During the brigade's previous deployment in support of MND-B in 2005, they flew more than 80,000 flight hours in 12 months. The 3rd CAB is set to redeploy to Hunter Army Airfield, by August after completing a 15-month deployment.

Several factors have contributed to the 3rd CAB's ability to maintain this level of operational tempo, said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Arthur Gribensk, brigade aviation maintenance officer. Gribensk said the overall strategy was to ensure operations and maintenance were synched at every level.

“We looked at the OPTEMPO daily and projected out as far as we could to see what the impact would be to adjust fire now, rather than wait until it impacted maintenance,” Gribensk said.

Forward looking, thinking and planning, coupled with integrating the civilian contractor work force with the Soldier maintainer work force was crucial, he added.

“That is imperative,” he said. “Proactive, predictive maintenance planning working with operations as much as possible to minimize reactive maintenance.”

Gribensk said keeping operations informed daily on the impact OPTEMPO has on maintenance capabilities is important so operations do not overfly the capabilities.

The 3rd CAB maximized the Soldier work force as its first priority, he said, then used civilian contractors to compensate for the deficit of manhours the high OPTEMPO required.

Besides maintenance and operations working together, supply planning played a big role as well. As part of last summer's surge forces, the 3rd CAB didn't relieve a unit in place in the traditional sense. The parts and supplies system had to be created from scratch. The 3rd CAB used demand analysis established in Iraq and mirrored it as best it could, Gribensk said, in order to give an idea of what parts it needed on hand.

That effort allowed the 3rd CAB to meet and exceed the

OPTEMPOs of other CABs in the shortest period of time, he said.

“It's a mutual effort,” Gribensk said. “But it is ultimately our magnificent maintainers in this brigade.”

The 3rd CAB executive officer, Lt. Col. Greg Kanicki, agreed, saying it was a total team effort, from the maintainers all the way to the operators.

“We've all played a part in facilitating the brigade's ability to operate at this high level,” Kanicki said. “Additionally, we've levered the experience of our Soldiers with multiple deployments. We should be getting better if we are truly a ‘learning organization.’”

To put this milestone into context, Gribensk said the normal OPTEMPO while training in the US is usually anywhere between 11 and 13 hours per airframe per month depending on the type of aircraft and the training mission requirements. Once deployed, the flight hours can be several times higher.

“For example,” Gribensk said, “in (Iraq) the AH-64 surges to almost 90 hours per airframe per month, the Blackhawk to about 65 hours per airframe per month, the Chinook to almost 60 hours per airframe per month and the Kiowa to over 95 hours per airframe per month. This equates to 5 to 6 times the OPTEMPO in garrison.”

“Ultimately, no matter the plan, it was our Soldiers and civilians that executed this program superbly.”

2BCT Soldier fights blindness to deploy

Sgt. David Turner
2nd BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – Sergeant First Class Darin Melton knew something was wrong as he fired his M-4 carbine at a rifle range at Forward Operating Base



Sgt. David Turner

Sgt. 1st Class Darin Melton checks the optics on his M-4 carbine. Daily treatment of his glaucoma has preserved his vision and enabled him to deploy for the fourth time in his 19-year career in the Army.

Loyalty. Though his left eye, which he used to sight his rifle, was fine, his right eye throbbed with pain and became limited in vision.

"My vision was so bad in my right eye, I could not shoot at all," Melton recalled of that fateful day. "All I could think about was my eyesight."

As a Soldier and part of a brigade security detail, Melton had never failed to qualify on his weapon before. He left the range that day knowing he needed his eyes checked.

They say that bad news always comes in threes. For Melton, two was plenty. Medics told him he was suffering from a retinal vein occlusion, which is sometimes compared to a stroke in the eye. Then, while waiting to be evacuated from Iraq for medical treatment, he received a Red Cross message informing him his father had died.

While still on emergency leave, Melton had his eyes examined at Hunter Army Air Field. There, he received a surprising diagnosis: In addition to the retinal vein occlusion, he had open-angle glaucoma.

"It blew me away because you never think about that," said Melton, of Charlotte, N.C. "That was a tough pill to swallow – you get diagnosed at 35 that you have glaucoma. You think your eyes are okay because there are no symptoms."

Glaucoma is sometimes called the "sneak thief of sight," because sufferers are often unaware of their sight slowly diminishing until it's too late. Once diagnosed, it can usually be

arrested and treated, but currently there is no cure to restore lost vision. Worldwide it is the second leading cause of blindness.

"All those years I didn't know I had it," Melton said. "I was damaging my eyes and didn't even know it."

Glaucoma is caused by a buildup of intraocular fluid in the eyes which causes pressure. This pressure can damage the optic nerve, reducing the sufferer's field of vision and eventually result in blindness. Though usually affecting the elderly, one in 200 people age 50 and younger suffer from it, often without even knowing.

"I was surprised by how many Soldiers were coming into the eye clinic at Fort Stewart who had never had their eyes checked, and their eye pressures were dangerously high," Melton said.

Melton's diagnosis with glaucoma caused him to educate himself about the causes and risk factors associated with the disease. Though sometimes caused by injury, it is often an inherited condition. Those with a Family history have about a six percent chance of developing it and diabetics, and people of African American descent are three times more likely to develop open-angle glaucoma. Melton's grandfather had glaucoma, which most likely caused his blindness, he said.

"If a Soldier knows they have a history in their Family of glaucoma, they need to get it checked," he said. Except for pilots, the Army currently does not check all of its Soldiers for

glaucoma, he said.

Though Melton's vision in his right eye remains diminished, he treats his condition daily with three different kinds of eye drops.

"It's like a cocktail," he said. "Before I go out, I make sure I take my eye drops."

Melton's 2005 deployment was cut short by having to return to the States for treatment. Afterward, he worried his condition would keep him from deploying again. Then he read an article about a Soldier with one eye who completed Army Ranger School training and re-deployed to Iraq. Melton took a simple vision exam and was classified as deployable.

Now on his fourth deployment (his first was during the 1991 Gulf War), Melton takes care of his eyes and sees well enough to perform his duties with confidence. He is currently the noncommissioned officer in charge of the Brigade Security Detail, 2-3 Brigade Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division. His job has taken him on more than 100 missions in the past year.

"Just recently, before I deployed, a doctor who saw me gave me reading glasses," Melton said. "He basically said I was getting old."

As far as his marksmanship goes, Melton still qualifies each time, though not at as high a score as he used to, he said.

Despite having reduced vision in one eye, he remains philosophical about the whole experience. If it hadn't been for the retinal vein occlusion, he says, he wouldn't have been aware he had glaucoma in time to treat it.

Spartans hold prayer breakfast at FOB Kalsu

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq – To celebrate the passing of the one year mark in Iraq, the Spartan Brigade held a prayer breakfast, May 13 to pray for protection and safety during the closing months of their deployment.

"We thank the Lord for being with us through this year and ask for His

blessing through the rest of the journey," prayed Chaplain (Maj.) Jay Hearn, during the opening invocation, chaplain for 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

While Soldiers ate breakfast, they took in words of wisdom from Col. (Chaplain) Pat Hash, Multi-National Corps – Iraq chaplain. Hash, a native of Corbin, Ky., based his speech on the biblical passage of

Luke 12:16-21, read earlier in the event by Chaplain (Capt.) Javon Seaborn, of 26th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd BCT. Hash said the scripture, although nearly 2,000 years old, was still applicable to the audience today.

The passage described a rich farmer who loses focus on God while preparing for his future. He learns, however, he will die the very night he prepares to build larger

barns for his harvest. Like the rich farmer, Hash warned Soldiers not to lose focus in the face of their own overwhelming bounty: their upcoming redeployment.

"The man lost his focus; don't lose your focus. Keep your mind on what it is you are doing," he said, adding that when people lose focus, they tend to do foolish things.

Besides the importance of keeping one's focus, Hash said the short

scripture provided two other important lessons: making the most of one's time and the inability of physical objects to satisfy the soul's yearning. In the passage, Hash said the man did not use his time well, nor did his vast wealth provide him happiness.

"Every single day is a gift from God," Hash said. "Take the gifts God gave you and use them to the best of your ability."